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BEIJING TODAY

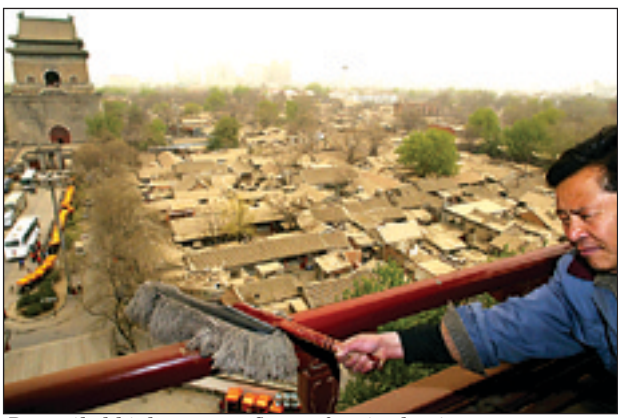
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Two more sandstorms to hit city



Dust piled high on every flat surface in the city. CFP Photo

By Chu Meng

Dusty conditions and sandstorms will continue to plague broad swathes of northern China, including Beijing, this coming weekend and for several more days after, meteorologists warn.

"Sand fell over about one eighth of China between April 14 and 18, and about 330,000 tons of sand fell in Beijing last Sunday night. Beijing's current population is some 20 million, so that was an average of 15.5 kilograms of sand per person," according to a spokesperson of the China Meteorological Administration (CMA).

"This is the tenth instance of sandstorms in northern China this year and the eighth in Beijing," said Xiao Ziniu, deputy head of the CMA's central meteorological station. He stressed that, "The young and elderly are best advised to stay home on dusty and windy days. Those who have respiratory illnesses or weak respiratory systems would also be wise to avoid going out as far as possible. Wearing a breathing mask can be a great help."

Yang Keming, a leading forecaster, said the main reason for the dusty weather in Beijing – which he described as the most serious since 2003 – was sand blown in by a severe storm that originated over Mongolia and Inner Mongolia last Sunday.

Yang added that extremely high vehicle exhaust emissions and floating dust from Beijing's ubiquitous con-

struction sites were making matters worse. "This is definitely one of the very worst pollution days in Beijing," he said.

The dusty conditions brought a great deal of inconvenience to the city's residents. "It was like a rain of dust. It haven't seen a storm in Beijing this bad for the last ten year," said Zhang Quanyong, a taxi driver who has been driving in the city for a decade. "I have to wash my cab every morning, because no one wants to take a dusty taxi. The charge for a car wash also doubled these days, and there were long queues at every car-wash. They were the only ones who benefited from this freakish weather."

Wang Hue, originally from the northeast, said that she had copied her neighbors and bought breathing masks for her family. "The dust is definitely bad for my health," she said. "This never happens in Dalian."

The State Forestry Administration (SFA), which monitors the effects of storms, said that the latest dust storms affected more than 500 counties across ten provinces in northern China, over an area of about 1.6 million square kilometers, home to a population of some 200 million.

Art and culture raise money for disadvantaged kids

By Tom Mackenzie

Ritan Park will be abuzz tomorrow as a massive festival of arts and culture sees Beijing's international schools teaming up to raise cash for disadvantaged minority children.

Up to ten thousand people are expected to flock to the park to take part in the annual Cross Culture Arts Festival 2006.

There will be music and dance performances, food stalls, exhibitions and film showings. Around 800 children, parents and staff from ten different international schools will take part in the event, organized by Eton International School, the Beijing Chaoyang Charity Association and the Lugu Lake Mosuo Cultural Development Association.

Christy Guo, Eton's business development director and one of the festival organizers, said: "China is still home to many children who don't get the opportunity to experience the joy of learning. Many of those children love expressing themselves in artistic ways; our aim is to encourage these young minds with help from our community."

"We're expecting thousands of people to turn up and we've been told the weather will be good so it should be a great day."

The festival will run from 10am until 4pm at Ritan Park. All money raised on the day will go towards providing art and school supplies for disadvantaged minority children in China.

Industrial heritage high on the agenda



The BCM Life Arts Center
Photo by Lionel Derimaix

By Gareth George

Some of China's top researchers, environmentalists and government officials gathered to discuss the country's industrial heritage this Tuesday, in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province.

Deputy Mayor Yang Weize introduced this first meeting of the Chinese Committee for International Council on Monuments and Sites, as top minds wrestled with the problem of relocating industry from its traditional city center location to suburban areas to combat rising pollution levels in China's cities.

The proposed move, with Wuxi as a test case, will leave countless empty factories and warehouses – many with significant historical value. Speakers at the symposium, who included Gu Yucan, executive vice president for the national element of the International Council on Monuments and Sites, Mrs Zhang of the department of culture and heritage protection for Wuxi government, and Beijing University's Yu Kongjian, expressed a commitment to preserving the sites through renovations which can make them viable businesses in modern China.

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City mulls cab fare rise

By Chu Meng

Beijing taxi passengers may soon be paying higher fares, the first rise in six years. The Beijing Municipal Commission of Development and Reform released a draft proposal suggesting fares rise from 1.6 yuan to two yuan per kilometer, to compensate for a recent hike in fuel prices.

A public hearing scheduled for next Wednesday will consider the effects of rising gasoline prices on the city's taxi fleet, and the feasibility of a fare rise. The commission made it clear that some form of fuel-related fare adjustment is on the horizon, to relieve the earnings squeeze on cab drivers. Drivers may also get some relief in the form of lower rental for their taxis.

For the drivers the rise cannot come too soon. The price of gasoline and diesel fuel has risen by more than 85.9 percent since 2000 on the back of major increases in the cost of international crude oil. Figures show that in 2000 the monthly average cost of gasoline for a taxi was 1,533 yuan; in 2005 it cost 2,850 yuan.

Drivers complain they are making less money than ever before, despite increased fuel subsidies from the government and their companies. Some say they will get out of the business if the situation does not improve soon.

"The plan would create a long-term mechanism, not to bring increased income for the taxi companies, but to only to guarantee that taxi drivers' earnings are not affected by fuel price rises," said a spokesperson for the commission.

Mr Zhao, who drives for the Jinjiang Taxi Company, said that the rise in fares would definitely increase drivers' incomes, but would also increase the cost to passengers and so probably boost the market for illegal taxis, already rampant in the city.

"The most important thing is for cab companies to reduce the amount they charge drivers to use a vehicle and allow the fee to float with gas prices. It is unreasonable for them to just sit there and take a profit from us without any risk," said Zhao, "Their profits are already big enough to balance out the fuel price jump, and they have no need to pass these costs on to passengers."

The major taxi companies charge drivers a flat fee of more than 6,500 yuan a month for the use of a vehicle, which is usually shared by two drivers working shifts.

Beijing has 227 taxi companies with over 90,000 drivers and 66,600 cabs.



Sculpture celebrates Olympic anniversary

Some 200 Beijing Olympic landscape sculptures, winners of the '2008 Olympic Landscape Sculpture Designs Contest', got final verifications yesterday at Beijing Jintai Art Museum, Chaoyang Park. The world wide sculpture design collection is one of the cultural activities held in China to honor the 110th anniversary of the Olympic Games.

CFP Photo

Gift of hearing dogs spoiled by regulation blank

By Han Manman

Two local deaf-mute women have become the first people in China to own hearing dogs thanks to a gift from a Korean organization, but a lack of regulations on the issue means they can't take their new companions out in public.

At the home of one of the hearing dog owners, Yuanyuan, her new friend Nuoyer lay curled quietly on the bed keeping his new mistress company. Yuanyuan said in a written note that Nuoyer came from Korea nearly two weeks ago, and that she already loves him very much. "Nuoyer helps me a lot. I can't hear the doorbell, water boiling or my mom calling me, but Nuoyer can tell me," Yuanyuan wrote.

Yuanyuan lost her hearing due to a medical accident when receiving treatment for a childhood illness. Last month, Yuanyuan and another young woman received hearing dogs donated by a Korean organization. Yuanyuan's mother says, "Nuoyer didn't understand what I said at first, he only un-



Yuanyuan and Nuoyer
Photo by Han Manman

derstood Korean. But now our clever Nuoyer can understand most of what I say."

Yuanyuan's mother says that only one or two dogs in a thousand can be trained to be hearing dogs, and each is worth US\$30,000. Although the family is very happy about Nuoyer's arrival, they are also worried that China lacks the necessary laws to permit hearing dogs to go out in public. "We very much appreciate receiving our hearing dog, but if Nuoyer is not allowed to accompany my daughter out in public and can only

stay at home, then he can only help us in a very small way."

"Many countries have regulations concerning hearing dogs and guide dogs for the blind and permit them to go to public places, for example Korea and America," says Yuanyuan's teacher Ms Luo, "In American restaurants, signs will say no animals allowed but permit guide dogs. Our government should bring in similar rules in China's Disabilities Act."

Mr Hao from the China Disabled Persons' Federation said that China did not have any hearing dogs or guide dogs before, so there is nothing about these working dogs in current legislation. "We will discuss it as soon as possible and try to bring it into the law to help those disabled people," Hao said.

Hearing dogs are specially trained to assist a person who is deaf or hard of hearing. The dogs respond to sounds such as a smoke alarm, a baby crying, the doorbell, or an alarm clock, and alert their deaf owner using touch.

GDP grows 10.2 percent in first quarter

The economy soared a stunning 10.2 percent in the first quarter this year, on the back of strong investment, a spokesperson for the statistics bureau said yesterday, whilst downplaying concern of overheating.

Gross domestic product, the broadest measure of the output of goods and services, reached 4.33 trillion yuan (US\$540 billion), according to Zheng Jingping from the National Bureau of Statistics.

"The growth seems to be on the rapid side, but I want to say such a rate still falls in the range of potential economic growth. It remains basically normal, though close to the upper limit," he said.

"It should arouse concern, and we are indeed paying attention to the situation," Zheng added.

China's consumer price index, the leading measure of inflation, climbed only 1.2 percent in the first three months. Economists are wary of a possible deflationary trend, citing the CPI growth of 1.8 percent in 2005.

Investment in roads, factory equipment and other fixed assets totaled 1.39 trillion yuan, a sharp growth of 27.7 percent, and an increase of 4.9 percentage points year on year.

Urban investment increased 29.8 percent to 1.16 trillion yuan, while that in rural areas reached 230

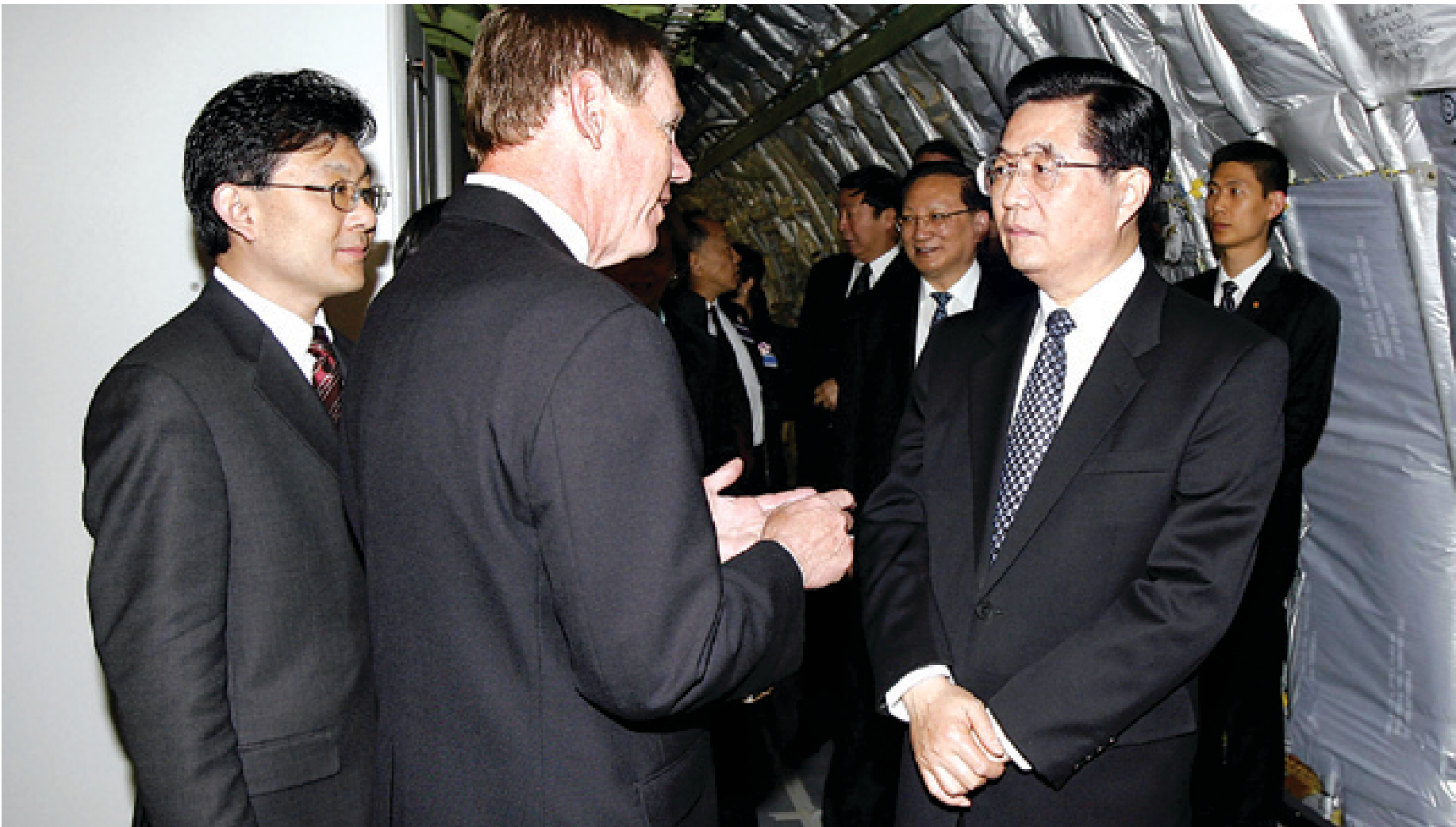
billion yuan, up 18.1 percent. China is launching a massive 'socialist new countryside' campaign to boost rural development, in a bid to narrow the growing urban-rural divide.

The State Council last week made a decision at an executive meeting chaired by Premier Wen Jiabao to move to avert any possible overheating of the economy by tightening controls on investment and money supply, but detailed plans have yet to be hammered out.

China's economy has grown at around ten percent in each of the past three years.

(Xinhua)

Hu visits Boeing and Microsoft



Chinese President Hu Jintao (R) visits Boeing plant in Everett near Seattle, April 19. Earlier on April 18, the president visited Microsoft's headquarters.

The United States is the first leg of President Hu's five-nation tour, which will also take him to Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Nigeria and Kenya.

(Xinhua Photo)

Hotline guide to Beijing

By Han Manman

Beginning this week, you can dial 1605106 or 16885106 to get advice from a new traffic hotline.

Callers can inquire free during the three-month trial period about routes and destinations, service stations and recreation venues.

The service is also available by text message. China Mobile, China Unicom and Netcom Xiaolingtong users should text to 955156, whilst Telecom Xiaolingtong users should use 99119156.

The national hotline numbers will be 11699156 and 16839156 when the service is officially launched after the three-month trial.

Hospitals to share test results

By Jiang Xubo

Patients changing hospitals will no longer have to undergo repeated tests as of June 1, thanks to the new rules issued by the municipal Health Bureau, whereby results will be shared between different clinics.

Some 50 local grade three hospitals, the top rating by China's national standards for medical institutions, will recognize each other's examination results for a number of clinical practices: blood tests, biochemical tests and immune tests.

"The sharing of results between hospitals will only apply to out-patients. Emergency patients will have to undergo re-testing," said Qiu Dalong, an official at the HB.

Air fuel surcharges cut

By Jiang Xubo

Fuel surcharges for infants eligible for 90 percent discount flight tickets will be abolished. For flights of less than 800 kilometers, children entitled to half-price tickets, disabled revolutionary servicemen, and policemen disabled in the line of duty will pay a surcharge of 20 yuan. For flights over 800 kilometers, the charge is 30 yuan.

The policy is valid between April 20 and October 10, according to the National Development and Reform Commission and General Administration of Civil Aviation.

New rules for overseas finance

By Lucky Zhang

Provisional rules for commercial banks to help domestic individuals to invest in financial assets outside the mainland have been issued by the People's Bank of China, the China Banking Regulatory Commission and the State Administration of Foreign Exchange.

Only commercial banks permitted to provide foreign exchange services can apply to the China Banking Regulatory Commission to be allowed to offer these new services. Banks must also meet other requirements such as having established effective market risk management mechanisms and having the ability and experience to conduct overseas financing.

Commercial banks also have to apply for a quota for the service from the China Banking Regulatory Commission, but

details of quotas have not been included in the regulations.

"This was not unexpected," said Shen Minggao, a senior economist with Citibank China. "The administration agencies should regulate the market only when the new services are launched. If the quotas are fixed now, that administration work will lack flexibility."

Because of China's WTO commitments, financial markets here will be open at the end of this year, meaning Chinese citizens will be able to deposit Chinese currency in foreign banks. However, the outflow of foreign exchange will be strictly controlled.

The new provisional regulations will allow foreign banks operating in China a chance to bring their advantages into play. Shen Minggao said that there were

various types of investment in the international financial market. People with different risk-bearing abilities can find investment strategies that suit their needs. "The new service will help domestic banks be aware of the pressures brought by opening to foreign capital."

Domestic banks are making positive preparations in the light of the new opportunity and are applying to offer the service.

"We will apply to the China Banking Regulatory Commission for permission to offer this service as soon as possible," said Zhang Xuyang, from the investment business department of China Everbright Bank, "The bank is communicating with the administration department on this issue and already has a basic plan for starting this service."

Less than half of migrant workers paid on time

By Annie Wei

A report from the State Council on migrant workers states that less than half of them are paid on time and more than three quarters have received no training.

The report found that only 20 percent of migrant workers received even short-term training. Only 3.4 percent had taken primary professional training and a minuscule 0.13 percent received secondary professional training.

A lack of skills makes China's migrant workers uncompetitive. Only 10 percent of 32 million migrant workers in the construction industry, for example, have received training, according to the Ministry of Construction.

The report finds that the most common pay level for migrant workers was between 500 to 800 yuan per month, and that was 22.5 percent work more than ten hours per day.

Of the workers surveyed, 3.6 percent were paid less than 300 yuan per month, 29.3 percent between 300 and 500 yuan, 39.3 percent between 500 and 800 yuan, and only 27.9 percent above 800 yuan per month.

Some 30 percent of migrant workers surveyed do not have a contract, and another 16 percent of were not even aware that they should have a contract. Contracts were seen as useless by 14 percent of those surveyed.

The investigation found that 61 percent of migrant workers are aged between 16 to 30, with an average age of 28.6. Although China's migrant workers are relatively young, the problem of aging will emerge over the coming decades and may be a great social burden for government, society and families.

The report said that migrant workers' aspirations were shifting from merely making a living to looking for equality.

The report also pointed out that migrant workers are the most active factor in China's labor force. If their income, benefits and rights are not properly protected, the gap between rich and poor will not be fundamentally changed.

Travel to US does not require visa invitation letter

By Han Manman

Chinese citizens applying for a US tourist visa do not need to provide a visa invitation letter, according to Michael B. Regan, Consul General at the US' Beijing embassy.

"Lots of Chinese have a mistaken impression about traveling to America and believe it is impossible to get a tourist visa," Regan said, "In fact, Amer-

ica very much welcomes Chinese visitors. Although China has not yet signed an ADS (Approved Destination Status) agreement with America, Chinese citizens can apply for a US tourist visa without an invitation letter."

Regan said that neither US or Chinese travel agencies are advertising travel to the States now because the US is not one of China's approved tourist destinations.

However, the US embassy has always issued tourist visas in the past and continues to do so.

Regan said that China and the US are taking the first steps in negotiating on the ADS issue, but there is no specific timetable as yet. Regan predicts that when an ADS agreement is signed, the number of Chinese traveling to the US will rise rapidly.

Brief News

More elderly in Beijing

The capital now has 1.66 million residents aged over 65, some 11 per cent of its total permanent population and an increase of some 2.4 percent from five years ago, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

Trademarks protected

Authorities investigated some 50,000 trademark infringement cases last year, 6,770 of which involved foreign companies, up over 23 percent on 2004, said Zhang Qin, vice commissioner of the State Intellectual Property Office.

Environmental incidents every other day

There has been on average one major environmental incident somewhere in China every other day since the chemical spill in the Songhua River in the northeast last November, said Zhou Shengxian, head of the State Environmental Protection Administration.

New case of bird flu

A 21-year-old man, surnamed Lai, from Wuhan in Hubei Province has become infected with H5N1 bird flu and is now in a critical condition. This brings the total number of human cases of bird flu in China to 17, the Ministry of Health said on Tuesday.

Basic subsistence for millions

China plans to secure basic subsistence, defined as having adequate food and clothing, for some 24 million people, and implement poverty relief programs for some 150,000 villages over the next five years, the period of the 11th Five-Year Plan, said Liu Jian, head of the State Council Leading Group of Poverty Alleviation and Development.

Work begins on Yellow River's biggest dam

Construction of Laxiwa Hydroelectric Station, the biggest dam on the Yellow River, has begun in remote north-western Qinghai province, according to Xinhua.

Weekly commercial information updates

The Ministry of Commerce has begun the weekly online release of commercial information about rural and urban markets, collected from a sample consisting of over 5,000 enterprises.

First certified rescue workers

The country's first 300 rescue workers will be awarded certificates at the end of this month and begin to provide emergency assistance when needed, the Ministry of Civil Affairs announced.

Police chiefs sacked for poor performance

Nine county-level police chiefs have been fired after their departments failed to pass performance reviews for two consecutive years, according to Ke Liangdong, director of the Ministry of Public Security's legal affairs department.

Lower road death toll

A total of some 300 traffic accidents resulting in fatalities in the city claimed a death toll of 323 in the first quarter, 36 people less than the same period last year, according to Beijing Traffic Management Bureau.

Patent applications hit record high

More than 476,000 patent applications were filed last year, up some 35 percent on a year-on-year basis and an all time high for the past 18 years, said Zhang Qin, of the State Intellectual Property Office.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Weekly Review – World



AP Photo

Oil prices hit US\$72 a barrel

Oil prices leapt above US\$72 a barrel this week, a record high for the third straight day, after a US government report showed shrinking US gasoline supplies and traders fretted about nuclear tensions between Iran and the international community.

Supply constraints in Iraq, Nigeria and the Gulf of Mexico are also pushing oil prices higher.

– AP

Gold, silver extend rise

Gold futures rose above US\$630 an ounce on the New York Mercantile Exchange this week, after the US Federal Reserve suggested it may be nearing an end to its rate-tightening cycle, giving traders one more reason to buy.

June gold futures peaked at US\$637.40, its strongest level since late 1980.

Silver rose 73.7 cents to US\$14.522 an ounce, after hitting a record of US\$14.575 since 1983.

– AP

Peugeot to shut factory in UK

PSA Peugeot Citroen announced plans to close a factory in Britain employing 2,300 people, blaming high production costs and a falling demand in Europe.



AFP Photo

“The group is unable to justify the investment needed for the production of future vehicles,” the company said in a statement announcing the end of its near 30-year association with the site.

– AFP

Toyota to sell ethanol cars in US

Toyota plans to sell ethanol-powered vehicles in the US by 2008, following the lead of the General Motors and Ford, the *Financial Times* reported.

US auto makers have produced about 6 million flexible-fuel vehicles, with many running on E85, or a fuel blend consisting of 85 percent ethanol, or ethyl alcohol, and 15 percent gasoline. But fewer than 1,000 of the nation's 170,000 filling stations currently sell E85.

– Reuters

CEO pay rising more slowly

CEO pay continued to climb in 2005, although not nearly as rapidly as in recent years, new surveys show. The median pay to CEOs rose 11.3 percent, according to a survey of more than 550 companies by The Corporate Library, a governance firm.

For CEOs at the largest firms, however, pay rose 3.7 percent to a median of US\$5.2 million.

– AP

US millionaire households rise

The number of US households boasting a net worth of at least US\$5 million swelled to 930,000, an all-time high in 2005, according to a report released by consulting firm Spectrem Group.

The report is based on data gathered through mail and surveys of American households from September 2005 to November 2005.

Spectrem said a record 8.3 million US households are worth at least \$1 million, excluding the value of a primary residence.

– Reuters

United Airlines' promotion turns sour

By Wang Xiaoyuan

The Beijing office of United Airlines (UA) is being accused of fraud and internal corruption over its recent ticket promotion.

Over forty consumers are protesting that they were misled by the airline company about their May Holiday promotion.

On April 6, UA published an advertisement stating that customers could get return tickets from Beijing to all United Airlines destinations in the US (excluding Hawaii and San Juan) at a price of 2,000 yuan from May 1 to 7. Customers had to purchase the discounted tickets between April 17 and 28 at their Beijing office with valid identity cards and pay in cash.

However, when about fifty customers went to the office on Monday morning they were told that there were only twenty discount tickets available, telephone booking only.

Professor Yang Bingzhang, one of the customers, said, “We started to call the booking hotline from 8:58am at the office, but only one got connected. At 9:30am, we were told that all tickets were sold out.”

Cheng Yiliang, the marketing manager of UA, China, insisted that there was no fraud during the promotion.

“We published the change of booking procedure last Wednesday. Two customers were seen successfully booking the tickets by phoning at the office,” he said.

Cheng's claims were disputed by Professor Yang.

“One woman in the hall was informed by a UA staff member to take her ticket. However, none of us saw her making a phone call at all. She did not give any explanation when we questioned her about it, which was suspicious,” Yang said.

Represented by two lawyers in the

group, the customers are now requesting an official apology from UA and evidence to prove that the twenty tickets were sold using a proper booking procedure.

A letter written by Guo Zhenxiong, the general manager of UA China, reached the customers on Wednesday. However, none of the requirements above were fulfilled. This has caused more bad feeling among the customers.

Guo Wei, a lawyer from Beijing Zhongdao Lawyer's Firm, confirmed that UA's behavior had violated the customer's right to be acknowledged. If the company cannot prove the sale of the tickets they will be sued for fraud and interior corruption.

The other representative lawyer, Dong Ping, who is licensed to practice law in the US, said that according to US Foreign Corruption Practice, they may sue UA both on the Chinese mainland and in the US.

Two million yuan to run your own KFC

Jiang Xubo

People can run their own branch of KFC for as little as two million yuan (about US\$250,000) thanks to a decrease in the franchise fee.

Yum! Restaurant China (YRC), a subsidiary of Yum! Brand Inc., owner of KFC, introduced franchise fees ranging from two million yuan (about US\$250,000) to eight

million yuan (about US\$999,000) in provincial capitals, developed cities and small cities across the country.

Candidates can bargain with the franchiser depending on the outlets' location, consumer flow and operation situations.

KFC is expanding in China through the sale of franchises that are well developed and in the black. It owns a total of 37 fran-

chises on the Chinese mainland now.

KFC used to offer franchises with fees ranging from 2.5 million yuan (US\$312,000) to 3.2 million yuan (US\$400,000). But candidates have to take care of everything themselves from the outset.

The country saw its first KFC franchise six years ago in Liyang, a small city in southeast Jiangsu Province.



Lien Chan promotes Taiwan fruits

Chinese Kuomintang (KMT) Honorary Chairman Lien Chan and his wife Lien Fangyu promoting fruit from Taiwan during their visit to a

Taiwan fruit market in Xiamen, Thursday morning before they left the port city that faces Taiwan across the straits. (Xinhua Photo)

Advertisers invest in local blogs

By Annie Wei

Hexun Blog Advertising Association claimed the half a million yuan advertising fee that they received recently was the biggest amount for bloggers in China.

The advertiser, CITIC bank, plans to share the money between 1,000 blogs. Liu Jun, chief editor at Hexun.com, said that CITIC bank's credit card advertising would start in May and that they had signed a contract with Hexun Blog Advertising Association. The association was established

in March as an advertising agency for mass random blogs.

Liu said there were two main kinds of blogs that attract advertising. One focuses on bloggers who are professionals in the finance, business or automobile industries. Ordinary blogs are to be valued by their click ratios.

However, the average advertising fee for 1,000 bloggers is only 500 yuan. It seems very little compared with their devotion to writing or maintaining their blogs. Liu

said that they hadn't worked out how to share 500,000 yuan among the 1,000 bloggers, “But the amount will grow with the development of blog culture,” Liu said.

It seems that blogs have become more attractive for advertisers. China had a total of 16 million bloggers by the end of 2005, with 60 million bloggers expected this year. Some even have click ratios over ten million. Some famous bloggers like actress Xu Jinglei and real estate tycoon Pan Shiyi have published their blog books recently.

China Briefing — New business guide to Beijing & Northeast China

By Wu Ren

China Briefing, the media publishing division of Dezan Shira & Associates, China's largest independent business & tax consultancy, have released their 464 page *Business Guide to Beijing & North-East China*.

Divided into six separate sections, and including detailed subjects such as a Regional Economic Overview, Government & Infrastructure, and Establishing Business, this guide was apparently over a year in the making. It shows. Containing full coverage, not just of Beijing but also Tianjin, Shenyang, Dalian, Changchun, Harbin, Qingdao & Yantai, this is exhaustive journalism at its most thorough.



There are useful case studies and comments from some of the international business communities largest companies.

Motorola, Halcrows, Ogilvy, Navigant, BASF, Vestas, Honeywell, Michelin, Qualcomm, B&Q, Standard Chartered Bank, RZB, ING Capital, Kimberley Clark, Bombardier and Estee Lauder all chip in with comments, while legal and tax advice is forthcoming from heavyweights such as Holman Fenwick & Willan, Rouse & Co, and Dezan Shira & Associates themselves. It doesn't stop there.

China Briefing have dug out additional material dealing with sensitive issues such as environmental protection, education, and social responsibility from global players like ERM, The World Wildlife Fund and the Beijing International School.

The China Briefing Business Guide to Beijing & North-East China is available by contacting philip@china-briefing.com or via the China Briefing website at www.china-briefing.com

Weekly Review – Nation

International Steel Congress in Beijing

By Annie Wei

China Iron and Steel Association (CISA) and Metallurgical Council held the Fourth China International Steel Congress in Beijing this week.

The theme for the congress was the development of the steel industry from 2006 to 2010. The congress included a plenary session discussing policy and the economic environment and other technical seminars about related technologies.

Ian Christmas, secretary general from the International Iron and Steel Institute (IISI) announced they have set up a Beijing office on Monday because Asia plays a role in the iron and steel industry all over the world.

Lenovo signs US\$1.2 billion deal with Microsoft

By Han Manman

The world's biggest software maker Microsoft Corp signed an agreement on Monday to sell approximately US\$1.2 billion worth of its Windows software to China's largest PC maker, Lenovo Group Ltd (LHL).

Lenovo's Chairman Yang Yu-anking said that the agreement aims to provide genuine software to customers at Lenovo's 5,000 retail stores in China in order to curb piracy of the software.

The agreement follows a Chinese government decree that requires all PCs made in China have licensed operating software installed before leaving the factory as part of the government's efforts to crack down on piracy.

Email your money

By Wang Xiaoyuan

From this week, customers of Shanghai Pudong Development Bank (SPDB) can transfer or receive money by email instead of keying in a long and complicated account number.

The new service provides more convenience for those customers not willing to expose their personal account numbers.

To send money, a customer must hold an SPDB account and a valid email address of the receiver. The sender can go to the bank or just use the e-banking service.

Beijing's biggest underground shopping mall opened in Zhongguancun

By Han Manman

The city's biggest underground shopping mall, located in Zhongguancun (dubbed 'China's Silicon Valley') in the northwestern part of Beijing, began trial operations yesterday.

Zhongguancun plaza's 'Pedestrian Street', the first business pedestrian street in Haidian District, also opened yesterday.

The 200,000 square meter shopping mall includes Carrefour's Asian flagship store, China's biggest sport products brand store, as well as a 50,000 square meter area for exclusive international fashion stores.

China's 'Wall Street' to open

By Ayi

After 13 years of construction, the Financial Street in the west part of Beijing announced it's ready for corporations to move in.

The three-block area is designed to attract financial institutions. The core element consists of a huge central park with a luxury shopping mall, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel and a Westin Hotel. Total construction will finish by October.

So far, 1,200 companies have become tenants, led by the country's government agencies, such as the headquarters of China's Central Bank, Bank of China and the supervisors of the banks, securities and insurance sectors.

Foreign giants include Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, UBS, and Bank of America.

“We want to attract more overseas financial institutions to this heavy block,” said Liu Shichun, president of Financial Street Co.

Orphaned kids kicked out of their school



Above: A kid waits for his new school with his belongings. Below: A worker demolishes the school.

Photos by Cai Daizheng

By Han Manman

78 mentally handicapped children and disabled orphans are being forced to leave their school and could be made homeless because of a bitter land dispute.

Last Friday more than 100 people dressed in camouflaged uniforms stormed into the Beijing Zhiguang Special Education and Training School in Changping District; kicking down classroom doors and smashing open dormitories before dumping the student's books, bedding and bags out of the classroom. They then chased the children out of the classroom and ordered them to stay in the playground.

The ordeal left the disabled children terrified. Their cries could be heard for miles around. Some of the children had epileptic fits, lying outstretched on the ground and foaming at the mouth. The orphans who tried to stop the gang coming into the building were hit.

The school wall and some classrooms were



knocked down and some of the orphans were forced to sleep in the school's dining room.

"Today they dismantled another row of houses, the sliding board and other donated facilities. Our school looks like it has been hit by an earthquake," said Wang Lijuan, president and founder of Beijing Zhiguang Special Education and Training School. "Some of the children were so terrified by what happened on that day they suffered fits of epilepsy. How could anyone do something like this to innocent kids?"

So who were this uniformed gang? Why did they treat the children so badly?

Wang claims a local company called Xinda Hengtai hired the gang.

The problems started with a land dispute more than three years ago. An investment company rented the land from Beijing Nankou farm and lent it to the school for free. But because of financial problems, the company had to cancel the lease contract. In November 2004, the farm told the school

it would have to move but the school refused. In 2005 the farm took the school to court and won the lawsuit. The court ordered the school to move out before May 1 this year. Last month, the farm leased the land to Xinda and the conflict escalated, leading up to incident last week.

The school claims that Xinda and the farm should treat them more fairly but the company insists that even if the school is a charity, it still has to stick to contracts. For other people the important issue is not who is to blame but how to find a home for the orphans and a place where they can carry on their studies.

Mr Ge, the head of Changping's commission of Education, said they were busy trying to solve the problem. "The school must move before May 1," he said. "We are cooperating with Beijing Municipal Commission of Education to find a new home for the children. When we find a suitable place, we will help the school to move there as soon as possible."

China bans commercial use of human eggs

By Chu Meng

The commercial donation and supply of human eggs was banned by the Ministry of Health this week in a bid to control the commercial use of assisted reproductive technology (ART).

The ministry issued a notice banning the supply of sperm to unauthorized institutions on the grounds that surrogacy is illegal and unethical. The notice also restricts the use of a donor's sperm to impregnate no more than five women for in-vitro fertilization and embryo transfer (IVF-ET) and no more than eight women for artificial insemination (AI). It called on sperm banks to record, in detail, how the sperm specimens are used.

The new law also bans egg donation and supply for commercial purposes. Unauthorized institutions are banned from using egg donation technology and egg donors are restricted to women whose eggs are collected while receiving assisted reproductive technology. The embryo has to be kept frozen until the donors are screened for HIV/AIDS and other diseases.

Mao Qun'an, spokesman for the ministry, said, "Surrogacy can cause social and moral problems and is illegal. Surrogate motherhood and the sale of eggs and sperm is also illegal in many other countries."



China needs more legal human sperm banks.

CFP Photo

He said a growing number of websites are advertising surrogate pregnancy services in China provided by organizations and individuals like college students who charge up to 100,000 yuan (12,200 U.S. dollars) a time.

Lack of legal sperm

By the end of last month, 64 institutions had been authorized to offer ART-related services and seven institutions in big cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Guangdong, Chongqing had established sperm banks with the approval of the ministry.

Beijing University Third Hospital and Beijing Maternity Hospital are the only two hospitals to open sperm banks in the capital, which has a population of around 20 million. And they claimed to be facing huge problems. Wang Hui, head of Beijing University Third Hospital Reproductive Medicine Center, said, "Yes, our hospital has been granted the legal status to establish of a sperm bank. But our feasibility report has not been approved yet even though we submitted it last year. So really we have no sperm bank."

Zhang Jun, the head from Beijing Maternity Hospital Reproductive Medicine, said, "We have no sperm bank either. Though the ministry has released the notice, the situation is much more complicated. You would have thought a sperm

bank would bring the hospital fame. But thinking of how much trouble it will be we have chosen not to have one. Firstly, there is not a single law relating to assistant reproductive technology in China. Secondly, the quality of semen is hard to guarantee. Thirdly, it is difficult for the hospital to restrict and trace donors afterwards, because China operates an anonymous system."

Zhong Nanshan, one of the best-known doctors in China, said, "As environmental pollution keeps getting worse, and as the pace of life keeps changing, the semen quality declines. The density of Chinese men's semen is half that of what it was 40 years ago. So more and more couples need artificial insemination to have children."

Tang Lixin is the head of Guangzhou Sperm Bank, which was established in 2003. He said that the number of couples who can receive sperm is strictly limited. "It takes a donor at least nine months to complete a donation. And once the donation begins, the donor has to donate every two weeks, four or five times in total. Before that he also has to stop making love for a certain period of time in order to ensure the quality of the sperm. After that the semen has to be frozen for six month to undergo HIV checks. Since 2003, there have only been about 3,000 donors and only 28 percent can eventually be used."

Online search for sperm cells and surrogate mums

By Chen Shasha

On April 7, a post on aa71.com, an exchange website for sperm cells, claimed that a man needed to buy sperm in order to have a baby with his wife. At least 16 people looked at the message but nobody replied.

A journalist who saw the message phoned the man pretending to be a sperm donor. Mr Liu, the man who asked for sperm, explained that he and his wife had been married for five years and desperately wanted a baby. The only way they could do this was through artificial fertilization. He said it was the couple's only hope.

They contacted a number of local hospitals but just one or two said they could perform artificial insemination surgery. And the cost to the family would be more than 10 thousand yuan.

"If I can get sperm on my own it will be cheaper," said Liu, as he explained why he wanted to seek help through Internet. The only thing he required of the sperm donor was that he was in good health and had the same blood type.

The case of Mr Liu is not uncommon. More and more people are using the Internet to look for sperm donors every day. People who

live in areas with no sperm banks have to travel long distances for artificial insemination surgery. There are currently only seven sperm banks licensed by China's Ministry of Health. A high demand and lack of supply means there is often a long wait for surgery.

When a journalist contacted a sperm bank in Guangdong province, pretending to need surgery, he was told he would have to wait until next year.

"We already have 1,000 people registered," said a doctor at the sperm bank. "You can wait until next year, but I don't know which month will be free."

Under laws, the sperm bank is only allowed to do a limited number of operations every year, despite having ample supplies of sperm.

The website aa71.com now has more than 500 registered members and even more is on its sister site, aa69.com, an online agency which helps people search for surrogate mothers. Volunteer surrogate mothers are ranked according to their level of education and beauty. Those who graduate from junior middle school are paid 40,000 yuan for giving birth to a child, while surrogate mothers with college degrees or above get at least 100,000 yuan. The couples look-

ing for surrogate mothers pay all the costs. They also have to fork out 1,000 yuan subscription fee to "AA69" and a further 5,000 yuan information exchange fee. Once the volunteer gives birth, the couple has to pay 12,000 yuan in monthly payments to the "AA69". To protect the volunteers, the couple and the surrogate mother must sign a contract drawn up by "AA69". But according to Mr Tang, a lawyer at Beijing Daqi law office, the surrogate mother's contract is not legally binding under Chinese law. If the surrogate mother gives birth to twins, triplets or a handicapped child and the couple refuse to pay her, she will have no legal recourse. China's Ministry of Health says it is illegal for agencies to sell sperm cells or make money out of surrogate mothers. But when asked, an officer at China's Ministry of Health said he had never heard of "AA69".

As well as all the legal problems surrounding the issue, there are also huge ethical problems. According to Lu Guangxiu, deputy of the People's Congress, in one province two hundred women have been made pregnant with the sperm from only ten men. "There is a danger that in the future, close relatives will end up getting married," said Lu.

Europe cracks down on fakes



A Chinese tour group heads for Europe. More and more Chinese travellers choose European destinations.

CFP photo

By Chen Shasha

Tourists traveling to Europe should take care not to wear or carry fake brand goods, as they will be confiscated, Beijing tour operators warned, in the run-up to the May holiday.

Last month, a Chinese traveler passing through French customs was punished for carrying a fake Adidas bag. The man was unaware he could be punished for this, but it was not in fact the first time that Chinese tourists have been punished by European customs for behaviors they had not been warned against before traveling. Liu Zhao, of the European High Fashion Association, says France released a law in 1994 to punish wearers of fake brands. "As of last year, the punishment became more serious," warned a lawyer with the Cabinet D'Avocats Pfeffer law office in Paris. The highest penalty is now some Eur 300,000.

It is not only Chinese tourists who are punished for fakes. Lina von Osten and a group of friends from Denmark said they were aware of the policy, "But it is not always as serious as what is said officially." Ms. van Osten bought clothes and shoes from Yaxiu market, many of which were fake brands. "If you just buy them for yourself, instead of for selling or for your family, that's OK."

Before the May holiday week this year, some but not all Beijing tour operators gave warnings about fake brands. Chunqiu International Travel, one of the city's largest tour operators, said they will not issue a special warning as no official warnings have been released yet. A spokesperson for the China Tourism Bureau said they were aware of the punishment policy in Europe but had not yet made a decision about issuing a special warning.

Preservers of folk culture sought

By Chen Shasha

The Feng Jicai Culture Fund have joined with net portal Sina.com to launch an online call for volunteers to record China's grassroots popular and folk culture heritage. This is the first time ordinary Internet users have been asked to join specialists to select and highlight the work of collectors of popular culture.

The campaign is designed to focus public attention on threatened folk culture. Unlike similar previous initiatives, this effort is the work of a grassroots organization rather than a government agency. The candidates for selection in the campaign are all unofficial grassroots protectors or collectors of popular culture, the vast majority of whom work without any sponsor or outside support.

China enjoys a rich and valuable popular cultural, that includes for example folk opera forms like Kunqu,



Fan Yu with a village crafts woman.

Photos by Sina.com

which is listed by UNESCO as a masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. However, socio-economic change has seen much folk culture lost or under threat as is lacks commercial value in the new market economy. Rapid urbanization in much of the countryside has also contributed to its decline, as has the process of modernization and an influx of foreign culture in China's booming cities.

Feng Kuan, of the Feng Jicai Culture Fund, is however convinced of the need to preserve China's folk heritage, "It's hard for a nation to survive without its unique and native civilization." Fan Yu is one of the candidates highlighted in the campaign and he shares Feng's view of the necessity of cultural preservation. Fan began collecting and preserving folk culture whilst still a student, something he has continued to do in his twenty-year career at a



Zheng Yufeng, another person highlighted in the campaign.

Shandong television station where he is now a director.

Fan's camera has captured a rich record of disappearing folk culture, and he has also helped preserve physical artifacts such as the traditional cave dwellings of Hougou village in Shaanxi province. Fan says the cave dwellings are a prime example of the very valuable culture that is now so threatened.

The dwellings were built terrace fashion in hillsides, saving much precious arable land, and their unique construction allowed temperatures indoors to be comfortable all year round despite the severe seasonal variations in the interior heartlands. Sadly most of the dwellings have now been replaced by modern brick houses, though Fan says, "Actually, multistory buildings aren't a good choice there, because of the special climate. But the local people just want to live like city people do."

Happily, many people across the country are now working to preserve, protect and record popular and folk culture. Most begin just because of an interest, but often go on to devote lifetimes to protection work. Photography, film and written records have helped capture many disappearing cultural practices. As so often, one of the biggest difficulties for the amateur preservers of folk culture is lack of money and resources. And folk culture is vanishing so fast it is hard for the preservers to keep up. "More attention should be called to the protection work through a nationwide campaign," says Feng Kuan.

McDonald's tops list of least ethical

By Chen Shasha

Fast food giant McDonald's has been named as the least ethical brand in Britain in the *Ethical Index*, a survey carried out by market researchers the Fraser Consultancy of a sample of more than 1,300 consumers.

The burger chain's unhealthy fare was thought to be out of step with a health-conscious society. McDonald's has recently announced it is to close 25 of its UK restaurants.

Consumers in China take a different view. A recent survey of more than a million of them, conducted by the Beijing Consumers Association and Qianlong Online News, found McDonald's to be the most popular Western-style food consumed in Beijing. Two years ago McDonald's ranked second in a 'Most Influential Multinational in China' award. Zhang Jing, a student at Beijing University, said although McDonald's food contains a lot of fat, she will not stop eating it because it is convenient and service and the environment in the restaurants are good. "I don't eat it regularly so I think it's OK," said Zhang.

McDonald's UK has acknowledged the survey and is waiting to view its full findings before deciding how to respond. These are, however, unlikely to have much influence on McDonald's China.

Other big names like Nike, Shell, Adidas, Barclays Bank, Coca-Cola, BP, Camelot, American Express, Nestle are also on the list.



McDonald's is still many Chinese consumers' fast food of choice.

CFP photo

Internet users volunteer for online translation

By Annie Wei

An Internet user on Tianya.cn is calling for volunteers to translate *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* online and has had an enthusiastic response.

The book, by Edward Gibbon (1737-1794), is considered one of the greatest historical works ever written in English, and runs to six volumes and over one million words.

The Internet poster, known as Grimace, wrote, "It's a pity there is only a Chinese version of the abridged edition. So I want volunteers' help to translate the whole book into Chinese and share it online free."

Very soon more than 100 other net surfers had left contact details following up on Grimace's post, expressing

their interest and willingness to join the project. However, some were concerned about copyright and legal issues.

Last year, a Beijing student nicknamed Blimey made an online translation of the sixth book of the Harry Potter series, sparking a debate over legality. Blimey's translation was completed faster than that of the People's Literature Publishing House, that had bought rights to J K Rowling's work and was preparing the official Chinese version.

Blimey claimed he had translated the book for study purposes and not for profit. However, the People's Publishing House claimed that Blimey did not have the copyright and that he was only benefiting pirates.

Zhao Lin, a lawyer for the China Council for the Promotion of Interna-

tional Trade, said, "Basically, as long as the translators or other websites do not use the translation for commercial purpose, there is no law to stop them."

It is a similar situation for popular TV series, movies and music. Download software clients like Emule and BitTorrent are very popular. Whether it is *24* or *Desperate Housewives*, anything broadcast to US homes is available online to Chinese audiences with local subtitles within a week. Many enthusiasts translate them for free.

However, Grimace is certain that translating Gibbon's *Decline and Fall* will not breach any copyright. He wrote, "Edward Gibbon died more than 200 years ago. The original text was copied from free Internet sources."

Grimace said that he had confirmed

with several big publishing houses that it was impossible to purchase the entire work. He emphasized his proposed translation was not for commercial purposes and pointed out that the current Chinese version was incomplete and full of mistakes.

Zhou Chunyu, a 24-year-old financial industry employee, was one of those responding positively to Grimace's call. "The main reason is that I have a great interest in history and have read the first three volumes of the book," Zhou said, "The team-work involved in translating something online also interests me."

Grimace has already posted parts of a Chinese translation online, and the volunteer translators have clearly done a very good job.

Fake goods never die

By Czhu Meng/Wang Xiaoyuan

Silk Street Market has been ordered to pay five top fashion manufacturers 20,000 yuan each for selling counterfeits this Tuesday, the latest action against the market. Chaowai Men Shopping Center had to compensate Louis Vuitton (L.V.) 150,000 yuan. On the same day, Silk Street Market II opened and was promoting itself as the new high-fashion 'no-fakes' center.

The five major luxury brand names succeeded in safeguarding their trademark rights in the lawsuit against the Silk Street Market. The Beijing Higher People's Court upheld a previous ruling

by Beijing No 2 Intermediate People's Court last December that backed the claims made by Prada, Chanel, Louis Vuitton, Gucci and Burberry.

"We are satisfied with the final judgment, with the exception of the amount of compensation," said Wang Yadong, legal counsel for the five brand owners. The ruling requires Silk Street Market to pay 20,000 yuan (US\$2,500) to each company for trademark rights infringement. Initially, each of the five companies demanded compensation of 500,000 yuan (US\$62,000) each.

Wang Zili, a representative for the market, expressed his disappointment

over the final ruling, saying it was nearly impossible for operators to eradicate all counterfeiting in such a large market.

In Chaowai Men, all goods with L.V. logos had disappeared from the shelves. The administrative office of the shopping center had distributed curtains to hang on the entrance of each stand. However, there are still some counterfeits being sold at between fifty and one hundred yuan, including Fendi, Clarks, Diesel and Christine Dior. All the owners seemed to be in a bad mood and suspicious of visitors. "There are words written in Russian on the curtain to tell

the Russian wholesale dealers to come," said one owner of a stand.

In sharp contrast, Silk Street Market II was opened to a fanfare on the same morning by the developer of the existing Silk Street Market. Posters like 'Embassy staff and white collar oriented' and 'The same fashion, no fake goods' were on display, and brand boards of Chanel, Gap, Levi's, Burberry, Gucci were hung up at the entrance. Expert buyers call high-level counterfeits 'A-version goods'. Vendors there proudly introduced their A-version goods. "Some of them are even superior to the A-version. You can never find them elsewhere," a woman vendor said.



Photo provided by SOIC

Gotheborg takes on new Chinese crew members

By Lucky Zhang

The Swedish East Indiaman replica merchant ship Gotheborg is now enlisting a sailor in Beijing to take part in the next leg of the Gotheborg's global voyage, from Australia to Indonesia, from the middle of next month.

The lucky person, along with a person selected in Xi'an, will spend a month as a sailor on the ship along with 80 crew members. All expenses will be provided by Shanghai Tianying Media Co (SOIC), the company responsible for the Gotheborg project.

"People who want to participate should be between 18 and 25, in good health, able to swim, and have a good command of English," said Rosemary Liu from Shanghai Tianying. "We hope that the applicants have cultural talents, such as singing Peking opera or cooking. Since all the crew is foreign it is important for Chinese sailors to communicate with them beyond language," Liu said.

Twenty applicants will be selected by the end of this month for an interview and the final selection will be made at the beginning of next month.

The voyage, which includes Chinese sailors, will be made into TV documentaries that will be broadcast when the voyage is finished.

"People are welcome to sign in on our website at www.gedebao.com. Our staff will contact them for further details," said Liu.

Two university students from Shanghai have been experiencing life on the Gotheborg. They boarded the ship at the end of February in South Africa. When the Gotheborg reaches Australia next month the two new crew members will take the students' places.

"The selected people will work on Gotheborg as sailors. They will be required to swab the deck, move heavy goods, and climb up to the 40 meters high mast," Liu said.

"It is really tiring because all the work is physical. When we climb onto the high rigging to furl the sail, we have to support our bodies using our arms as sometimes it is difficult to support yourself using your feet. If we encounter big winds we may be more tired because we have to spend a lot of energy maintaining our balance," wrote Zhu Huifang, one of the Shanghai university students, in her diary.

"However, I am more and more adapted to the life on the ship, whether it be eating, working, or communicating with others," said Chen Yecheng, another student.

"Life on the ship may be dull and tiring; however, it is a valuable experience," said Rosemary Liu.

The Gotheborg I sailed between Sweden and China on three occasions, transporting goods such as tea, silk, and porcelain. It sunk off the Swedish coast at the end of its third voyage.

The replica Gotheborg will arrive in Guangzhou in July and stay in Shanghai for several months.

Bicycle wedding



Photo by Xue Jun

There are nine million bicycles in Beijing That's a fact

It's a thing we can't deny

Like the fact that I will love you till I die.

-Nine Million Bicycles, Katie Melua

By Yu Shanshan

Jiang Yang, a PhD student at Beijing University, planned his bicycle wedding according to the demands of his lover, Miss Fan. On Tuesday, accompanied by

over 30 fellow Beijing University students, Jiang rode the bike (which he had especially decorated) with his wife standing on the back for a two-kilometer tour around the university.

Female foreign embassy officials in Chinese art competitions

By Han Manman

Over 100 female officials from 71 embassies in Beijing have applied to become involved in Chinese art performance competitions. The first competition about Chinese Kunqu opera will start on Sunday in the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) auditorium.

At last Saturday's opening ceremony Chinese folk culture experts gave a lecture to the female officials about Kunqu opera and tea ceremonies, and taught them how to conduct these ceremonies. Other lectures will be held in the coming weeks. Each competition will take place a week after each lecture.

Supported by CPAFFC and the State Council Information Office, the compe-



Photo by Luke Lou

tion aims to promote traditional Chinese art culture and enhance cultural cooperation between countries.

Duan Beisheng, director of the CPAFFC, said the competition would run every weekend from April 23 to May 15. The final award ceremony will be held in Zhouzhuang, the traditional water town in Jiangsu province.

According to Duan, the competition is divided into five sections. The per-

formance section includes Kunqu opera, tea ceremony, cheong-sam and a Tangzhuang clothes show. The Chinese language section includes a Mandarin competition and Chinese singing competition. The handicrafts sector includes traditional paper-cutting.

Famous experts from performance art, folk art, and cultural circles will make up the judging panel as well as the lecture group.

Mummified corpse may be the missing scientist

By Wang Xiaoyuan

A mummified corpse found in the desert near Lop Nur is suspected to be that of scientist Peng Jiamu, who went missing in the area 26 years ago. Tissue samples from the body have been brought to Beijing for DNA testing in a bid to identify it.

The samples were taken from the head, jaw and leg of the corpse. Liu Wu, an anthropologist at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), said that a dental examination indicated that the deceased was about 1.7 meters tall, close to Peng's height. The corpse is currently being kept at the Dunhuang Museum in Gansu Province while its identity is being confirmed.

Last winter, Liu Xueren, a villager from Nantaipu Village near Dunhuang, discovered the body lying on a sand



Peng Jiamu and the remains

dune some 60 kilometers from Peng's point of departure for the trip he never returned from. "There were no clothes on the corpse. A staff made from a willow branch was lying beside it," said Liu, who together with his companions that day attempted to bring the body to Dunhuang, but were not able to move it. Instead, they buried it and marked the spot. A research team from CAS and local Gansu institutions began identification work on the body last Saturday, accompanied by members of Peng's family and the scientist's former colleagues.

"It is rare to find a corpse in the area where the mummified body was discovered. So it is highly possible that it is Peng," said Sun Xiehu, a member of the research team.

Goubuli steamed dumpling fast-food restaurants in Beijing are fake

By Lucky Zhang

None of the Tianjin Goubuli steamed dumpling fast-food restaurants in Beijing are legally affiliated restaurants of Tianjin Goubuli Fast-food Co Ltd. Staff from the company came to Beijing and made the statement on Wednesday.

On Wednesday, staff from Tianjin Goubuli visited several steamed dumpling fast-food restaurants named Goubuli in Beijing together with officials from the Beijing Industry and Commerce Administration, Haidian branch.

The staff from Goubuli pointed out that the steamed dumplings sold in these restaurants were not genuine Tianjin Goubuli steamed dumplings. "The genuine Goubuli steamed dumplings are sold in steam boxes but are not sold according to weight. The preparation of the steamed dumplings in the restaurants is rough and the menu design does not match ours," one staff member said. "Furthermore, the sign of Goubuli restaurants should be black with concave golden characters."

Tianjin Goubuli steamed dumplings are a famous kind of traditional Chinese food. There are two ways for people to set up Goubuli restaurants. One is to join as a chain restaurant and the other is to join as a fast-food chain restaurant.

At present, there are ten legal Goubuli chain restaurants in Beijing but no legal fast-food chain restaurants.

Birds to get accommodation this weekend

By Wang Xiaoyuan

This Saturday at Yuyuantan Park three to five hundred birdhouses will be given to bird lovers free of charge to accommodate birds migrating from the south.

The event will start at 9 am in the park. The organizer is Beijing Raptor Rescue Center (BRRC). The event is part of this year's Bird Week. "The best place to locate these houses is certainly in a tree. However, the trees planted in communities in Beijing may not be able to stand the weight, so the birdhouses are usually tied to a balcony or the frames supporting air conditioners on building walls. People who get the birdhouses must promise that they will take care of the birds and make sure that the house will not hurt others at the same time," said Eileen, a staff member of BRRC.

'Uncle Bird,' Yan Fuxing, who can imitate over seventy bird sounds, will also attend the event and display his talents.

China table soccer championship to open

By Han Manman

The Chinese leg of the International Table Soccer Federation (ITSF) world tour will be held in Beijing from May 1 to May 4. Table soccer enthusiasts from around China can register to participate now.

Organized by the ITSF China delegation, the championship will take place in Tiantan sports stadium. The 2006 China Table Soccer Championship is an official ITSF pro-tour event. Each participant can earn ITSF official points.

The tournament entry fee is 20 yuan and the registration deadline is April 30. This knockout competition follows ITSF rules.

Contact: 67155258/67113193

Email: cbfa@vip.sina.com

Or register on the Chinese official website www.cbfa.com.cn

Foreign parents of orphans

By Han Manman

When those little blind orphans heard Ana and Gary were coming, they ran out of the house with their canes and shouted, "Auntie Ana, I missed you!" or "Uncle Gary, Uncle Gary!" They clustered round the couple, shouted, and gave warm hugs and kisses.

Like many Saturdays, Ana Herrera invited many of her friends to visit the orphanage. This time the visit is to blind orphans in the Bethel Foster Home (BFH) in Hebei province. Involved in orphan work in China for six years, Ana is a really passionate and active Spanish woman. The bus driver told her on a number of occasions on our way to Hebei not to kneel on the seat to talk with others.

Nearly 20 people from America, Indonesia, and Spain came along. Most of them are friends of Ana and her American husband Gary Cicero, and come from alumni clubs of Cornell University and Yale University. Ana said BFH is the nearest orphanage to Beijing. "Some of the orphanages I visit are five to six hours away, so not many people are willing to go with us. That is why I chose the nearest one this time." Every weekend, Ana and Gary visit an orphanage and send an email to friends and invite them to join.

BFH was set up by a young French couple, Guillaume and Delphine Gauvain, in 2003, and receives no government assistance. BFH now has almost 40 blind children and the children call them 'French papa and French mama.'

In BFH, a boy named Xiao Guang who is sponsored by Ana and Gary, is a smart boy. He said, "Ana is very kind, she always comes to see me and play with me. If one week she does not come I will miss her a lot."



Ana and Gary (middle) with a blind child



Have a good time with children

Photos by Han Manman

Besides Ana and Gary, this is not the first trip for some of the visitors, like Professor Fernandez Leila and businessman Mauri (short for Mauricio). "I have been to visit orphanages before. I like those kids. So, when I found out about this visit I decided to come," Leila said as she played with the kids.

Ana and Gary have organized an annual charity event since 2000. The aim is to raise funds for the orphanage and disabled orphans in particular. With the help of European Chamber of Commerce, the couple's 2005 charity event was really successful and received donations totaling 1,360,000 yuan.

Ana disclosed that the 2006 charity party would be held in November.

In early 1999, Ana and Gary arrived in Beijing as participants of the EU-China Junior Managers Training Program, a China-based language and business training program for young European managers. The couple soon launched their own sourcing company, China Export Partners.

When Ana was asked what was their motivation for devoting so much of their time to helping Chinese orphans, she said, "We feel that we have a good life and we have to help those that do not enjoy the same type of life. We have a successful business and want to give back to the people who need our help." Guillaume said simply, "We faced many difficulties but we were determined to help those orphans."

Do you register?

By Annie Wei

With the new holiday season approaching, many young expatriates, especially newcomers, are expecting a visit from abroad by family or friends. According to the Public Security Bureau of China (PSB), if you want your friends or family to stay with you they should register with the police within 24 hours of their arrival.

However, many foreigners think it is troublesome, "What? Even if they are just staying here for the weekend?" said Tom Edmonson, a British man who came to Beijing for four months and shared an apartment with a

friend. "I did not hear anything about that. I have not registered where I am staying now, but my friend (flat mate) has registered with the local PSB."

This situation bothers Chen Zhongliang, an official of the Entry and Exit Affairs Management Department of the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau. "This is a Chinese regulation and I hope every foreigner will know about it and follow it," Chen said.

"The whole procedure is simple and it does not take longer than two minutes," Chen said. "If you rent a local apartment, go to register with your landlord. If you have

foreign friends to stay for a few days, just bring them to register."

According to Chen, there are foreigners being fined for non-registration every day.

"Normally, if they did not know about it we might just give a warning the first time," Chen said. "But if we found out that he/she did it on purpose, they will be fined 200 yuan."

Chen said that when foreigners follow the rules and register where they are staying it is very helpful for the police and also helps reduce foreigner-related crime.

Recently, to make as many foreigners aware of the policy as pos-

sible Chen and his colleagues paid visits to over one hundred local PSB stations. The PSB will work together with different communities to make sure foreigners follow the regulations.

"We put up English and Chinese advertising in many communities, Korean language posters in the Wangjing area, as well as brochures to help people understand where to register and what they should bring with them."

"If you have not seen any brochures or posters, or need the police's help anytime, just call 110 and they would transfer the call to us," Chen said.

Choose a color for Beijing



Heric Lindqvist

By Wang Xiaoyuan

For the coming Olympics, the 2008 Environmental Construction Administration of Beijing has launched a plan to redecorate the buildings along the main streets. Citizens and visitors are being asked for advice and suggestions. So what is your favorite color for Beijing?

Heric Lindqvist, 24, from Stockholm, holidaying in Beijing

I like the blue and green glass walls. Yellow will do also. In Stockholm we have houses lined up in different colors, such as white, red or yellow. It would be interesting if Beijing looked like that.

William Kvistmo, 11, from Stockholm, holidaying in Beijing

The color of Zhaolong Hotel (a mixture of gray and yellow) is what I like, especially on such desert days in Beijing. I also prefer white, but it may get dirty easily in the sand storms.

Salvador, 42, and Gevonne, 27, from Spain, stayed in Beijing for a month

Orange and pink!

Cigdom Gul, 22, from Germany, has been in Beijing for seven months, studying in Renmin University

I think the color red will make Beijing more beautiful, since it is a traditional and classical Chinese color!

Doco Meyer, 23, German, holidaying in Beijing

Pink perhaps. Why not? Girls love pink!

Allain Sam, 25, from Liberia, has been in Beijing for two months

It is definitely a necessity to redecorate Beijing's buildings, but they don't need to change the color. It would be better if they just cleaned them. The area of Sanlitun is my favorite community. I love buildings like the apartments with red triangular roofs, yellow walls, or modern ones with glass walls like the Pacific Center.

Louis Robert, 28, from the US, has been in Beijing for two months

The colors of the rainbow! Have a try!



Cigdom Gul



Doco Meyer



Louis Robert

Photos by Wang Xiaoyuan

BJ'S LOVE & HATE

Advertising

By Gareth George

A week ago, Olivier phoned me. He was very excited about an advert he had seen on TV. "Have you seen it?" he demanded. "What does this mean for Chinese advertising?"

I had seen the TV spot he was on about. It features a serious looking Chinese basketball player, all in black, spinning a black basketball which is spraying ink with every rotation. Now and again, he pummels the ball with exaggerated martial arts style moves. It's pretty cool. "And it's got a real Chinese feel," Olivier added.

It's usually tough to warm to Chinese advertising. Most home grown spots tend to be as subtle as a hernia, or soulless rip offs of famous western campaigns. Olivier and I scratched our heads and tried to remember the brand the ad was hawking. Olivier was determined to defend 'his ad': "This isn't the death sentence it would be in the west...it might just be for some brand we've not heard of before."

A few days later, Stone, a copywriter from Wunderman, recognized the ad from my description (one part verbal, two parts physical). He told me the local Leo Burnett did the creative work for Li Ning, the Chinese sportswear giant. Founded in 1990, Li Ning is one of the three big players in the Chinese sportswear market, along with the ubiquitous Nike ('Just do it') and Adidas ('Impossible is nothing'). Rumor has it that just three years ago, to say they were a 'local style' company would be putting it politely. Since then they have put together a professional marketing team and snatched themselves an 8.7 percent chunk of the market - which might not sound impressive, but that was worth US\$260 million as of the end of April 2004. "Do you remember that 'Africa' spot? That was them" Stone said. I was taken aback. Africa is a singular low point in the history of Chinese advertising. The spot relies solely on clichés (both sports ad conventions and racist ones). It manages the curious feat of being so bland as to be almost invisible and risibly offensive at the same time. "That was them?" I said, "Well, they've come a long way"

"You think?" Stone raised an eyebrow behind his spectacles. "Their campaign slogan is 'Nothing is impossible!'"



Community

Ecological time bomb needs to be stopped

By Chen Shasha

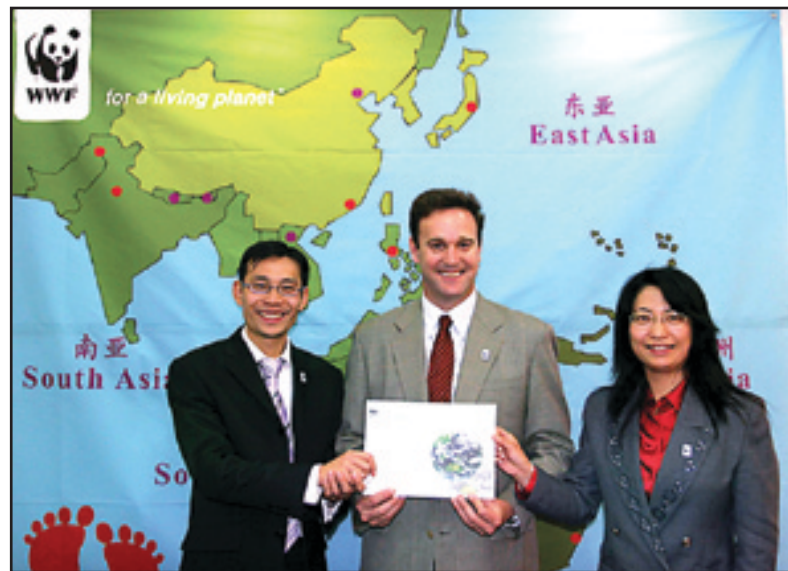
The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) issued the Ecological Footprint and Natural Wealth in Asia-Pacific 2005 research paper on April 19, claiming that people in the Asia Pacific region now require 1.3 global hectares of biologically productive area per person. However, the supply is only 0.7 per person, which means we are consuming the resources of the next generation.

According to the research, between 1970 and 2000 the terrestrial index fell by about 30 percent, the freshwater index by about 50 per cent, and the marine index by around 30 per cent. In the next 45 years the average temperature of the world will rise two degrees, which will cause a lot of trouble, according to Dermot O'Gorman, a representative of WWF China.

The situation is even worse

in China. The ecological impact has been felt in China, with bio-capacity decreasing every year. More than 80 percent of rivers of China have been polluted and over 100 cities now suffer shortages of fresh water. However, "China is in a unique position to shape the world's path to sustainable development in the coming decades," said Dermot O'Gorman. "If China, where around 20 percent of the world's population live, can get the balance right between natural resource consumption and production, we could see a very different future than the current projections."

The report suggests creating more resource efficient buildings and transport networks in major cities, advancing innovation in new energy technologies that would free China from the high cost of fossil fuel imports. "The



Dermot O'Gorman (middle) in front of the environment protection map.

changing of people's consumption habits is so important that it can affect the balance between

economic development and the protection of the environment," said Dermot O'Gorman.



To fly higher, to live longer



A dragon kite on the Great Wall

Spring is a breeze

By Stephen Leong

Spring: this is when sunny days and cool breezes bring many people, young and old, to take to any open space and take part in their favorite springtime activity: kite-flying. The kite, a Chinese invention, has been around for 3,000 years, with the earliest made for military purposes rather than for pleasure. Over time, it evolved with the culture and history of China to become a work of art, tradition and pride. The Beijing kite is in a class of its own, with many designs and colorful artwork. Today, the number of craftsmen who can make kites with traditional intricate designs are becoming fewer as many of the younger generation are no longer interested in pursuing a craft that does not yield a profitable economic return. A good kite takes as long as a month or more to make. These days, one can also buy generic kites at a number of places with the biggest being the open-air kite market in Shunyi. Open spaces such as the Tiananmen Square, Chaoyang Park, and the Millennium Monument Square are the favorites for avid kite flyers to show off their kites and for vendors to sell their ware.



A kite, yesterday



Sunhe kite market at Shunyi has the most kites in Beijing



Catching flies



Sort of like sky fishing, or not



At Three Stone Kite



At Three Stone Kites, a family has made and produced kites for decades



Venders at Sunhe market

"Photography has always been a passion ever since I got my first Kodak Instantmatic. It is also a means for me to record events, people, and the ever-changing landscape of our modern society no matter where I am."
— Stephen Leong (Singapore)

A kite in the sunset sky



Romantic manner under the Bauhaus roof

By Shelley Xie

Speaking of 798 Space, we are wowed by the aesthetic shock produced when artists depend upon the East German Bauhaus style and China's old factory culture to match contemporary art. It's this unique style that lured Paul Smith to present his debut show in Beijing – his spring/summer 2006 collection last Tuesday.

"For my fashion shows in London and Paris, I always find my own places that are unusual and unique to display my collections," says Paul. So the same tradition applies to Beijing. "When I saw this old factory I thought it was so perfect and unique."

They used the same background as the shows in London and Paris – a white chiffon curtain hung from the roof. There was no warm-up performance. When the lights struck the catwalk, his model in a man's belted cane print overlap shorts, white gathered waist blazer, and white jersey vest was like a pleasant breeze of spring, even though there was a sand storm raging outside.

The whole collection is quite British, in which we set ourselves in rambling country manors and English stately homes. We are quite familiar with his traditional British 'classics with a twist'. "This time, it's like visiting my grandma's house," said Paul. He described the house that was his inspiration. "In her rooms, there are old shoe cases, underwear with laces, and some antique and exotic things from India and China."

Paul, the color master, praised the washed-to-pale colors in vogue this season, such as washed grays, pale blues and antique pinks. They create a sun bleached, antique and gentle mood for warm days. Also, the natural fabrics are comfortable on the skin. The prints and stripes are inspired by traditional wallpaper styles of the country houses of the UK. The patterns include a variety of eastern treasures with chinoiserie florals, birds and vases.

"My grandma likes to collect unique things from India, Japan and China, even though she has never been here. The shop she usually goes to in London is called Liberty (which sells Chinese and Japanese style products)."

Originally a prestigious men's wear designer, now Paul likes to make fashion for women too. He can easily create dandy-boy chic with feminist elegance. For instance, a man's dinner shirt goes with a black and cream *toile de jouy* printed skirt, or an embroidered lace kaftan top and Birkin overlap trousers with leather boy's brogues. Accessories like belts and satin embroidery on heeled Chinese slippers are the only feminine decorations.

"The most unique point of his clothes is that you can feel womanly in men's styles," says Chinese supermodel Zhou Bin. "You won't feel overwhelmed by the blend of genders. His clothes are casual and comfortable to wear, especially on hot days."

Paul's name is more recognized and preferred by men. Zhao Jun, a Chinese male model, said after the show: "Personally, I like this brand very much. Most of his clothes make us look young and vibrant."

When we suggest the washed-for-a-worn-look breaks from the classic image of British gentlemen, he jokes that he doesn't want to see people sleeping at the show "because people are interested in something new and different. But you can find those pretty formal ones in my shops."

People in Beijing can purchase some similar styles in his shop by next week. But make sure that Beijing's sand storms and sandy rain do not spoil your soft-colored Paul Smith.



Paul Smith an easygoing chap

Actually, Paul fell into fashion by accident. At the age of 15, he took a job in a Nottingham clothing warehouse and his only interest in the job was cycling to and from home. However, an accident ruined his dream of becoming a professional cyclist. Just by chance, he met people from an art college at a local pub after six months in hospital, talking about things like Mondrian, Warhol, the Rolling Stones and much more. He became interested in fashion and began to make his own clothes and displays.

By 1970, he felt ready to go it alone and opened Paul Smith Vêtement Pour Homme on Byard Lane. The shop opened on Fridays and Saturdays, and Paul worked there as a window dresser, tailor and stylist. He did a fashion design course during the week. Four years later, he moved the shop to a bigger location on the main street, and in 1976 he showed his first collection in Paris.

When a neighboring shop came up for sale, Paul bought it to sell more idiosyncratic items – first-edition books and comical Japanese toys and gadgets. He also filled the windows with furniture by designer friends.

By then, Paul had formed his style - taking elements from upper class tailoring, hand-made suits and bringing them together with something silly. With the expansion of his business, he opened more shops in Asia, the US and Europe while diversifying into everything from women's wear and watches to perfume and furniture.

After the show, he showed me an orange watch on his wrist. "This is one of my recent pieces. Also, you can find chairs, cabins and drawers I have designed in my shops."

When I looked at him, I could not find any trace that he is a man in his sixties. "I love life so much and always keep in good spirits." Maybe that is why his collections are so popular among young guys. In addition, his great sense of humor and easygoing temper make ordinary people comfortable and happy around a big shot like him.



Paul Smith in Beijing
Photos by Zhong Hai

Buy more at Paul Smith's other than clothes

When you walk into Paul Smith's in Oriental Plaza in Beijing, you will be lured not only by vintage clothes, but also his jewelry designs, books, art, antiques and an array of interesting and beautiful products. Following are some that you can buy in Paul Smith's Beijing store. Tel: 8518 6369



Cufflinks



Women's bag



Jewelry



Belt



Men's bag



Hat



Paul's furniture and house products (cloth surface chairs, wooden drawers, woolen rugs and china) are only available at shops at Westbourne House, Sloane Avenue and Albemarle Street W1 in London.



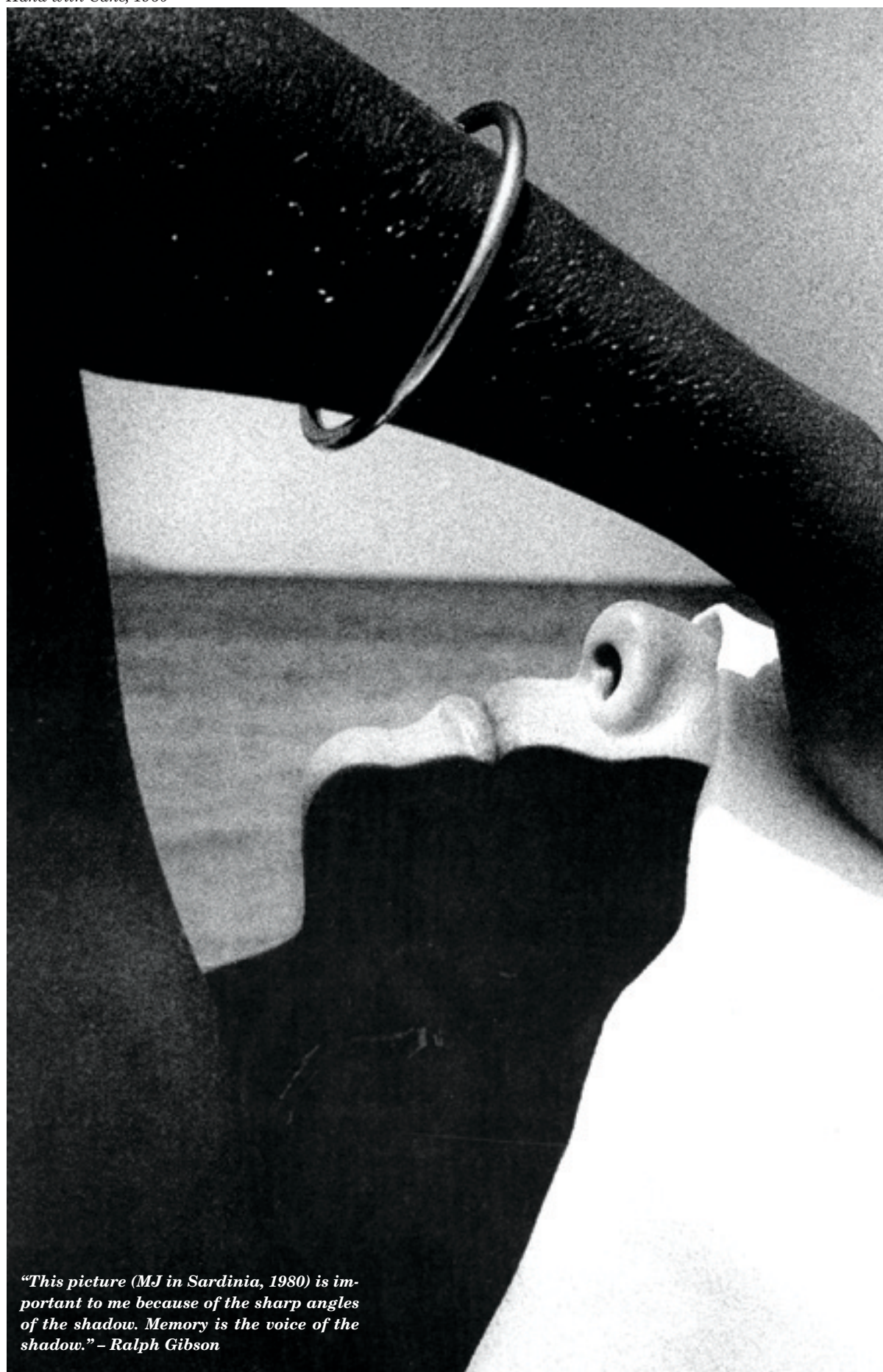


Hand with Cane, 1960

World beyond language

American Ralph Gibson kicks off his first solo show in China

"Photography is like electricity. We know how to use it but we really don't know what it is, also, taking photos is no longer an issue of how to take them but what to shoot." – Ralph Gibson.



"This picture (MJ in Sardinia, 1980) is important to me because of the sharp angles of the shadow. Memory is the voice of the shadow." – Ralph Gibson

By Han Manman

American photographer Ralph Gibson, a big name in contemporary photography circles, has come to Beijing. His solo exhibition will be in Soka Contemporary Space till April 30.

Though he kept his guests waiting over half an hour at the opening ceremony, Gibson arrived excitedly, saying that he had used five rolls of films that day, while showing off his new Tangzhuang clothes. Gibson's photography, like his expressions, don't stick to one pattern.

Born in Chicago in 1939, Gibson has developed a style that is strongly influenced by Robert Frank and Dorteia Lange, documentary photography giants of US.

Courageous and resolute choices in composition and unique personal perspectives are the most distinct characteristics of Gibson's portrait works. His works leave people a strong impression with the details of extravagant sketches, and strong black and white.

"There are a lot of black and white pictures, because it is a record show, I didn't really start working in color until about 20 years ago. So some of the early pictures come from the 1960s. Some of the work goes back a long way," said Gibson.

Gibson prefers to focus on single objects or themes rather than the panorama. In his Soka show, we can see parts of the human body rather than the whole torso, which is pictured in the strong contrast of shadow and light.

"A part is always more perfect than the whole body," he said, adding, "I'm just looking for a beautiful Chinese model".

The Somnambulist series seem to recount a profound situation in which something will reach its peak but it is impossible to predict the ending. The Days at Sea series depicts abstract senses triggered by extreme images. The two series are Gibson's representative works.

When asked about his favorite work, Gibson said, "The most important picture for me is my next one," adding, "Every picture has its special meaning for me. It is like asking you which is your favorite son or daughter. At different times, I like some and then I like the other one."



Isabella: an incestuous love story

By Han Manman

Isabella won the Silver Bear at the 56th Berlin Film Festival. Now it's here in Beijing.

The film, on the surface, is an incestuous love story. In the months just before Portugal handed Macao back to China in 1999, Shing (Chapman To), a womanizing cop under suspicion of corruption, brings home an underage hooker, Yan (Isabella Leong). After sleeping with her, he is stunned to find Yan is his daughter with his high school girlfriend, who died recently.

The director Pang Ho-Cheung has made his name with a series of quirky, inventive comedies like *You Shoot, I Shoot*, and *Men Suddenly in Black*. In contrast, *Isabella* is a conventional mood and a family ethics story, much difference from Pang's usual genre-bending invention.

The film has a misleading start, with its busy timeline, jumbled crosscuts and gloomy scenes, and it is hard to understand, at least in the first 15 minutes. The style is a little bit like Wong Kar-Wai's.

But once characters get sorted out and Yan drops her bombshell (being the daughter of Shing), the film heads down a fairly straightforward narrative path.

There is a saying that when you see Pang's movies, you should focus on two parts, the first is the underlying meaning of the story and the other is the music. The Portuguese music in *Isabella* is indeed very impressive, and plays a very important part for the story telling. Sometimes even without the dialogue, you will move with the characters' emotions.

Peter Kam put in lots of Portuguese music elements into the film score, giving it a very different feel from other Hong Kong movies, which won the musician the Silver Bear for best music. "Music is very important to this film. Music should not just be background, but should tell a story. I told Peter to create something through the music, not just to fill in the gaps. Some dialogue was even cut out because he wanted to fit the image with the music," Pang said.



To see heaven in a leaf

Israeli artists lead us inside nature

By Jiang Xubo

See a world in a grain of sand and heaven in a leaf at The Insight of Nature, an Israeli art exhibition, held in the Beijing Museum of Natural History (BMNH).

These leaves, fixed under a row of counter glasses, are not eye-catching at all at first sight. But when lights installed at the bottom of the counter go on and rays penetrate upwards through tiny holes, a magic world presents itself right before your eyes.

Clothes, trolleys, cars, households, buildings and even figures, all the things you see in your drab daily life bear a fancy air, glimmering and speaking softly, thanks to the leaves. Imagine a

kitchen with cupboards full of bowls, plates, dishes, and cookers. And what about a double bed with pillows and blankets? And a skirt with side-drapings, decorated with delicate lace? In those 40 brown or dark green leaves, ranging from a baby's palm to a salad dish in size, Ronit Agassi, a leaf cutter, creates a fairyland that exists only in dreams by using thin needles.

Wheat sculptures made with marble wheat stalks nestled in dark iron bar stems, merge natural beauty and industrial power. The sculpture on show is just part of an installation, consisting of 30 wheat stalks in each one, displayed in nature. Imagine these white marble stalks



From top, left to right: Avi Sperber, Ronit Agassi, Neta Dor Lemelstrich, Karmela Berg, Boaz Arad, and Tova Berlinski

displayed in the fields at the foot of green-brown mountains under clear blue sky in Israel. Magnificent? Yes, but sad, too. This wheat never waves in the breeze.

"The sculpture looks with an eye to the future and another

to the past and to nature, in similarity to the feelings of duality found in each one of us," said the creator, Avi Sperber, a sculptor connected to the Israeli landscape.

In *Earth*, Avi's other installation on display, land is disinte-

grating into scrums of earth clots under the siege of 20 stone mice in different shape, size and color, arranged in a circle around the land. A nightmare? Maybe. But it'd better stay within the two square meters the installation occupies at the exhibition hall.

Another unique piece at the exhibition comes from Boaz Arad. In an untitled short film, Gordon, a white pet rooster with a scarlet comb, stands on Boaz's shaved head, guarding its owner.

"I am making this film for Gordon; I stand for him like a pedestal for a sculpture. Children who saw the film said that it looked as though the rooster had laid an egg," Boaz said.

"For the animals, everyday is Auschwitz," Issac Bashevis Singer, a Jewish author and Nobel prizewinner, once said. Maybe Boaz tells us it doesn't need to be like that.

These are just part of the exhibition with some 60 pieces, ranging from oils on canvas, etchings to installations. The six Israeli artists have many more surprises to present.

The Insight of Nature is at the BMNH, through April 23.

Bestseller booklists 3rd week Apr.

By Jia Ting

US – New York Times Bestsellers

1. *Two Little Girls In Blue*, by Mary Higgins Clark

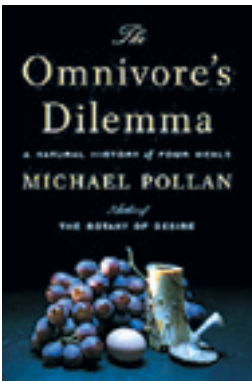


(A small girl communicates telepathically with her kidnapped twin.)

2. *Gone*, by Jonathan Kellerman
3. *The Da Vinci Code*, by Dan Brown
4. *Shiver*, by Lisa Jackson
5. *The 5th Horseman*, by James Patterson

Amazon.com Bestsellers

1. *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*, by Steven D. Levitt, Stephen J. Dubner
2. *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*, by Michael Pollan



3. *American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation*, by Jon Meacham
4. *Cesar's Way: The Natural, Everyday Guide to Understanding and Correcting Common Dog Problems*, by Cesar Millan and Melissa Jo Peltier
5. *American Theocracy: The Peril and Politics of Radical Religion, Oil, and Borrowed Money in the 21st Century*, by Kevin Phillips

UK – The Guardian Bestsellers

1. *Cross Bones*, by Kathy Reichs.
2. *Labyrinth*, by Kate Mosse
3. *One Shot*, by Lee Child
(With six shot, five people are dead and one heartland city is thrown into terror.)
4. *The Last Templar*, by Raymond Khoury
5. *The Triumph of the Sun*, by Wilbur Smith

France – Fnac.com Bestsellers

1. *La Tragedie du President (The Tragedy of the President)*, by Franz-Olivier Giesbert
2. *J'étais Derrière Toi (I Was Behind You)*, by Nicolas Fargues
3. *Sans Raison (Without Reason)*, by Patricia Cornwell
4. *Le Retour du Professeur de Danse (The Return of the Dancing Master)*, by Henning Mankell



5. *Apprendre A Vivre (Learn To Live)*, by Luc Ferry

Germany – Amazon.de Bestsellers

1. *Sakrileg (The Da Vinci Code)*, by Dan Brown
2. *Der Schwarm (The Swarm)*, by Frank Schätzing
3. *Mission Arktis*, by James Rollins and Christine Struh
4. *Illuminati (Angels and Demons)*, by Dan Brown
5. *Nachrichten aus einem unbekannten Universum. Eine Zeitreise durch die Meere (The Intelligence of the Unknown Universe: A Time series of Marine Wildlife)*, by Frank Schützing

China – Joyo.com Bestsellers

1. *Brothers (2nd Part)*, by Yu Hua
2. *Deception Point*, by Dan Brown
3. *Lotus*, by Anne Baby
4. *Between Parent and Child*, by Dr Haim G Ginott
5. *Brothers (1st Part)*, by Yu Hua

Shepard Country extends to Beijing

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Two couples tell their love stories in a corner of a cafe. Although the words they say are exactly the same, different moods and characteristics lead to hundreds of possibilities and developed a variety of outcomes.

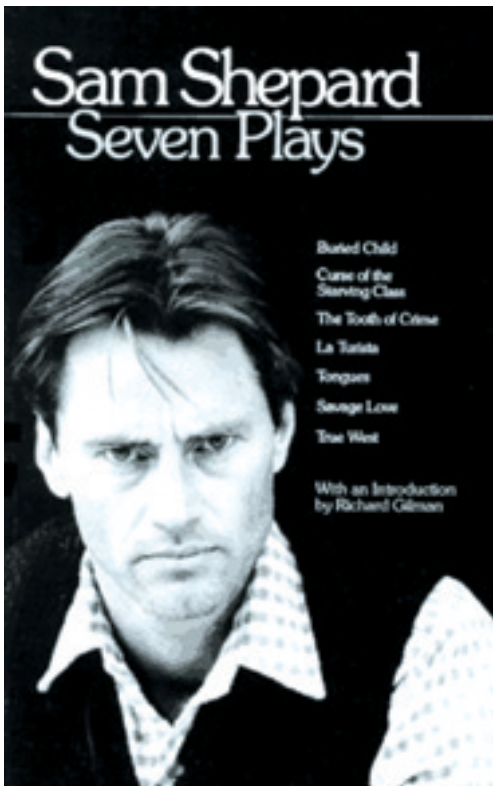
This was Sam Shepard's *Savage/Love*, performed by Nu, an international drama group at Bookworm Book Club at Beijing last Thursday. Eriko Miyagawa, from New York, the organizer of the play, said "We love Shepard because of his truthfulness and honesty. *Savage/Love* is one of his least known works, however, it is so realistic, and full of conflicts and possibilities. The original work is actually a series of poems. You can see that it is not a real story, but just some moments put together. Still it is so dramatic and reflective."

Shepard, originally Samuel Shepard Rogers, is an American playwright, screenwriter, drummer and actor. He won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1979 for his three-act play *Buried Child*.

Savage/Love will be performed in venues at Da Shanzi this May. Please contact Eriko Miyagawa at +86 13439510975 or email to eriko.miyagawa@gmail.com for details.

Buried Child concerns a dysfunctional and emotionally damaged family struggling to keep a dark secret that haunts their past. Dodge, a curmudgeonly old father and his wife Haile live with their eldest son Tilden in a remote Illinois farm house. The couple constantly humiliate each other with casually cruel comments whilst Tilden, a hulking child like presence, is openly derided for his failure to be able to take care of himself. Their younger son Bradley, who is dependant on a false leg for mobility, lives nearby and the couple mourn a lost son, constantly referred to as being a dead hero and everything the other two sons are not. When Tilden's long lost son Vince and his girlfriend Shelly pay the family a visit it is the catalyst for all of the dark secrets to come tumbling out of the closet.

Shepard's sharpness and talent for black humor give his work a controversial and



mysterious style. Most of his works focus on the relationship between US people in the 80s and 90s. The New Yorker dubbed his achievement "Shepard Country", "...a landscape of the imagination, a unique theatrical experience that captures our culture and consciousness, our fears and fantasies."

Read more Shepard:***Fool for Love and Other Plays***

Includes eight of Sam Shepard's best plays: *Fool for Love*, *Angel City*, *Geography of a Horse Dreamer*, *Action*, *Cowboy Mouth*, *Melodrama*, *Play Seduced* and *Suicide in Bb*

Sam Shepard : Seven Plays (*Buried Child*, *Curse of the Starving Class*, *The Tooth of Crime*, *La Turista*, *Tongues*, *Savage Love*, *True West*)

By Sam Shepard and Richard Gilman

As a poet of the interior, Shepard's convoluted families express despair over hideous personal tagidies in *Buried Child* or their own inability to love in *True West*. Shepard's use of language is interesting. It is its strongest when it reflects the rhythm of a place or time (*Curse of the Starving Class*).

What's on local shelves

Timezone 8 Art books***Extreme Bodies: The Use and Abuse of the Body in Art***

By Francesca Alfano Miglietti

246 pages, 192 yuan

This thought-provoking volume presents an original, theoretical reflection on the use of the body in art. It analyses the ways in which the body has always been manipulated: from its relationship with cultural, religious and political institutions to current trends of self-decoration mutation.

Young, Sleek, and Full of Hell: Ten Years of New York's Alleged Gallery

by Aaron Rose

150 pages 360 yuan

In 1992, Ludlow Street in New York's Lower East Side was just gutter of low-rent tenements with a large demographic of artists, musicians, film-makers, designers, writers, and hoodlums. At the heart of it was Alleged Gallery – the most famous street-style gallery in America.

Where: Jia 24-2

Meishuguan Dong Dajie,

Dongcheng District

Contact: 64004427**Bookworm*****Picasso at the Lapin Agile***

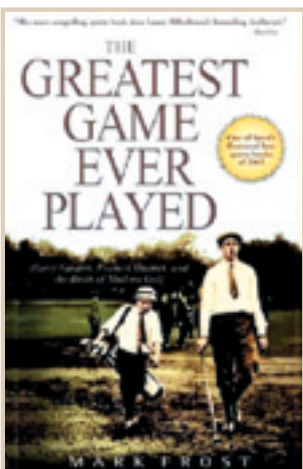
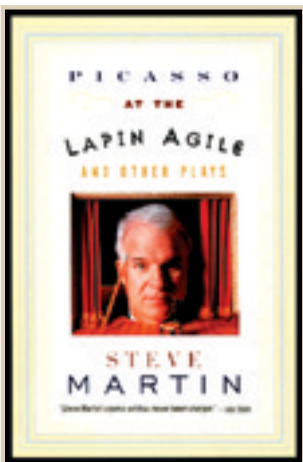
by Steve Martin

150 pages, 105 yuan

This absurdity comedy places Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso in a Parisian cafe in 1904, just before they transformed the physics and art worlds respectively. The two geniuses muse on the century's achievements and prospects, as well as other topics, with infectious dizziness. Very funny.

Leo the African

By Amin Maalouf



360 pages, 135 yuan

Based on the life story of the geographer Hasan as-Wazzan, who came to be known as Leo the African. The novel describes, amongst other things, how he fell in love with a Circassian princess, met the pirate Barbarossa, and went to the court of Salim the Grim.

Where: Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Road, Chaoyang District Tel: 6586 9507**CNPIEC Book Store*****Artemis Fowl (Book 1)***

By Eoin Colfer

304 pages 84 yuan

Colfer's crime caper fantasy, the first in a series, starts off with a slam-bang premise. Twelve-year-old Artemis Fowl is the most ingenious criminal mastermind in history. With two trusty sidekicks in tow, he hatches a cunning plot to divest the fairyfolk of their pot of gold.

The Greatest Game Ever Played: Harry Vardon, Francis Ouimet, and the birth of Modern Golf

By Mark Frost

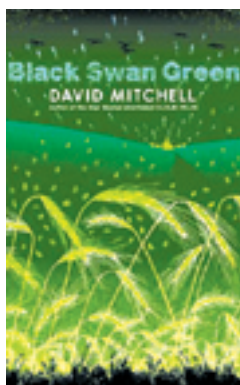
496 pages 84 yuan

This first nonfiction effort by Frost, who is a novelist, television producer and scriptwriter, deftly tells the story behind the legendary 1913 US Open, in which Francis Ouimet, a 20-year-old golf amateur from Massachusetts, shocked the genteel golf world by defeating British champion Harry Vardon, the most famous pro golfer of his time and the inventor of the modern grip and swing.

Where: 2nd floor of China National Publications Import & Export Corporation, 16 Gongti Donglu

Review***Black Swan Green***

David Mitchell, Sceptre, 371 pages

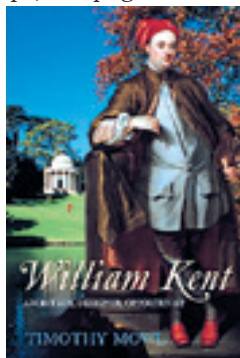


David Mitchell's interesting new novel is a story told by a 13-year-old boy about the year in his life when his parents split up. Having set it in the year of the Falklands war, Mitchell makes much in the book of getting the songs, TV programmes, the biscuits and cigarettes right. *Black Swan Green* charts a year in the life of a sensitive boy apt to be bullied, who writes poems under the pen name Eliot Bolivar, but whose real name is Jason Taylor. Mitchell has wanted, in this young-writer-breaks-out-of-stiflingly-philistine-home story, to do a very ambitious thing in this novel, which is to write a book about a young adolescent – and the young adolescent as natural poet - as though it was written by a young adolescent. (*Guardian*)

William Kent; Architect, Designer, Opportunist

By Timothy Mowl

Cape, 320 pages



Timothy Mowl's provocative new book is not really a biography of William Kent, and for good reasons. Despite Kent's fame as early 18th-century England's greatest interior decorator and garden designer, his private life is a blank. This snag might have deterred a less resourceful biographer, but Mowl circumvents them by concentrating on Kent's stylistic development, as displayed in his works and drawings. Although Kent is his hero, he appears, in the end, to have doubts about whether he deserves that eminence. He comes across as a cold, calculating, coarse-grained man with a puerile sense of humor. He makes no bones about calling Kent a "clown" and a "shallow jester", yet he also feels that he was a "cultural giant" and equates him with Shakespeare and Michelangelo. (*Time*)

Innocent when You Dream: The Tom Waits Reader

Edited by Mac Montandon

Orion Books, 394 pages



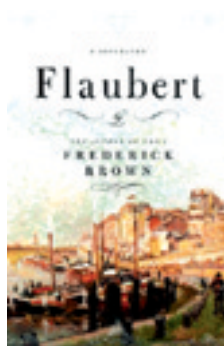
When Tom Waits began touring in the early 1970s, he would choose hotels by climbing into a taxi and naming aloud an American president. That's how he steeped his muse in paper-bag booze and decrepit bathrooms shared with old men and panhandlers in hundreds of small-town dives called Lincoln or Taft or McKinley across the US. In conversation as in song, this kind of vivid, dog-eared picture of low-life Americana is Waits' speciality, and on the strength of these 40-odd interviews spanning 30 years, no one who loves his music could ever be disappointed in the man. (*Age*)

By Wang Chun

Flaubert: A Biography

By Frederick Brown.

Little, Brown & Company, 628 pages



Novelists should thank Gustave Flaubert the way poets thank spring: it begins again with him. He is the originator of the modern novel; indeed, you could say that he is the originator of modern narrative - that the war reporter and the thriller writer owe as much to him as the avant-garde fictionist. The great bear of Croisset, the monkish aesthete who spent much of his life in one house, and a great deal of that time in one room, has sired thousands of successors. Because Flaubert, like his details, is so visible and invisible, he needs to be cleaned of the glaze of his renown every so often and shown afresh; and he needs to be treated by someone who has himself a good eye for detail. Frederick Brown is the right candidate. (*New York Times*)

Dark Wild Realm

By Michael Collier

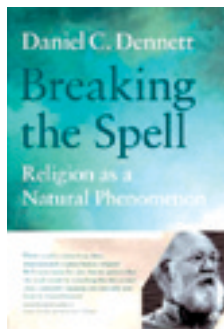
Houghton Mifflin. 63 pages



In the 38 intense but prosaic lyrics, Collier, a National Book Critic's Circle Award finalist, invokes an ominously mythic vision of reality reminiscent of the work of Ted Hughes. Poems centered on birds alternate with reflections on the mysterious operations of nature, invocations of the dead and intimate recollections of love. If the book's wildness is conveyed through developing a set of metaphors from the natural world and clamping formal control onto poems about difficult content, it's not surprising that Collier's darkest realm surfaces in reference to classical literature. He writes elegant, accessible, closely observed poems. His stance in *Dark Wild Realm* is both alert and unsettled. His writing seeks the unstable spaces between light and shadow, waking and sleep, spirit and body, and the places where the living and dead pass one another. (*Washington Post*)

Breaking the Spell

By Daniel C. Dennett



The distinguished philosopher, Daniel Dennett, who tends to congratulate himself on his towering intellect, is hardly a betting man. He would be unlikely to place a stake alongside Blaise Pascal whose famous wager runs: 'You cannot lose by professing belief in God - if He does not exist you lose nothing, and if He does exist you will be rewarded in the afterlife'. Dennett argues that religion has evolved along Darwinian lines and is subject to the 'laws' of evolution – such as natural selection, and it is better to live as if there is no God, attempting to make the world a rational and better place. He points out that religious observance is an expensive evolutionary strategy – it is costly building cathedrals, and church-going is a massive waste of time. (*Telegraph*)



Corn flour cake



Vegetable rolls



Mutton steak

Red Sun, the ecologically themed restaurant

By Shida Zhu

I had heard of the Zhaolai Botanical Garden a long time ago and yet it was my first time to visit, as well as the Red Sun Bio restaurant beside the garden, with my family, last Sunday. It is a glass-covered structure under which a great variety of tropical or sub-tropical plant life thrives. The great thing is that you have your dinner amidst waterfalls, rocky hills and creeks where golden fish swim majestically. You will feel as if you are really in nature, enjoying your food and conversation with your friends or family.

In the central dining area there is a stage where performances are put on every day. The dinner tables are layered on three tiers, ensuring all diners will be able to see the performance on stage while dining.

You may choose a table on an 'island' hemmed in by a creek. A big durian tree grows there, extending its shade over the dinner tables. Or, you could go to an artificial rocky hill area and listen to the cascading waterfalls while dining. A giant cactus from Latin America, rarely seen in China, grows on the banks of the creek. A Chinese-styled wooden bridge is thrown across the creek. It is exactly as an ancient verse muses: 'I in the mountains and rivers and mountains and rivers in my heart'.

There is also a dining plaza, the European-Asian Plaza, where there are European-style dining rooms and a corridor arranged with dinner tables with rocking chairs hung from ropes. It is a good place for a romantic evening. The Ming and Qing style dining rooms are ideal places for family reunions, entertainment, and business talks. The 13 wooden rooms offer the clientele different settings, all of which offer luxury fit for a king. Four bamboo rooms, totally enclosed, are suitable for business talks. Of the deluxe rooms, *wangyue* (moon-watching) has a Thai design and *pinzhu* (bamboo-watching) has a Japanese design.

The large area means the restaurant can accommodate tables for wedding ceremonies, family reunions or business parties. It offers a range of set menus: 388 yuan (for 6 to 8 persons), and set menus for ten persons at 588 yuan, 688 yuan, 880 yuan, 1,000 yuan, 1,800 yuan, 1,980 yuan, and 2,000 yuan. Since the restaurant opened in January 2003 it has been a venue for the wedding ceremonies of well over a thousand couples. Just as



Confucius said as a wedding oath, "Once I take your hand, I will live with you until we turn gray."

Most appropriate to the rustic setting, the restaurant makes bean curd on the spot, the 'countryside way'. When a square-shaped, freshly prepared, steaming bean curd is brought to your table, you will be surprised by its freshness and tenderness. Another ecologically friendly dish is the vegetable salad the Chinese way: a plate of tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots, green garlic, and bean curd sheets.

As if bent on impressing the clientele with its rusticity, the restaurant has rural marks on a number of its dishes. For instance, it offers chicken wings wrapped in corn grain, Jilin corn porridge, lobster-vegetable porridge in the Cantonese style, and fermented corn cakes. Of all the dishes I had with my son, daughter-in-law and wife, the baked sheep leg in the style of Yili, Xinjiang, was the most impressive. It gave off a natural fragrance when it was brought to the table. The sheep's leg was baked so tenderly that it almost melted away in my mouth. It reminded me of those sheep dishes I had when I was in Yili, Xinjiang, when we were entertained with baked sheep legs and sour horse milk by the hospitable Uygurs in their tents. This time, at the Red Sun, we of course did not use Uygur knives to cut mutton from the legs.

The restaurant offers a variety of culinary tastes, including the Suzhou, Sichuan and northeastern Chinese schools. For instance, the chefs baked a perfect Suzhou style Spanish mackerel. The salty *kejia* style steamed chicken offers a visual as well as gourmet pleasure when a lively chicken squats on the porcelain plate in perfect vividness. (*Kejia* is a term for emigrants from central China to the mountainous areas in Guangdong and Guangxi several hundred years ago who speak a different dialect and have a different way of life from the Cantonese.) I recommend the stir-fried river shrimp meat cooked with Longjing tea, the world-renowned tea from Hangzhou. It offers a nice picture of pink-white in pure green. Another Zhejiang dish that will catch your imagination is stir-fried tender cattle loin with Hangzhou chili. The small Hangzhou chili is not as hot as the other species. It will be a surprise to you if you can have a purely Jiangsu-styled *shizitou*, the 'lion's head' of minced pork and crab, covered with a delicious gravy. The stewed pork cooked in the northeastern Chinese style is



Inside the Zhaolai Botanical Garden

also wonderful for your stomach. To round off your meal, you may order a noodle dish in chicken soup, or *yigengmian*, a noodle dish cooked with a single, extra long noodle (It is so long that you may think that it will never end). Hence it's named after longevity. Isn't it wonderful that you have your meal and have, too, a propitious compliment of longevity?

Directions:

1. From the Yangshan Bridge on the Fifth Ring Road northwards, turn east at the first crossroads and turn to the south at the second block;
2. From the airport expressway to the North Fifth Ring Road, drive westward and take the Laiguangying.
3. Tel: 84916111, 84916333
4. <http://www.htyshty.com>

Tastes in design

Old and new aspects of China and Chinese design meet in Da Zhai Men restaurant

By Jiang Jiqiang

Da Zhai Men restaurant has just opened recently on Shouti Nanlu, offering another venue for people to enjoy a mixture of Chinese traditional architecture and food. A professor from Tsinghua University designed the restaurant's interior. Folklore paintings are used to decorate the walls. Some are copies from the Ming and Qing dynasties (1368 – 1911). Diners sit at ancient Chinese style block wooden tables. There are huge wooden carvings on the stage and around the dining hall. Yet the presentation of dishes, the table utensils, and the lighting that only illuminates the center of the tables creates a feeling of modernity. Without the bustling waiting staff and noisy performances, the restaurant would almost look like a Chinese folk art museum. Like its other branches, the restaurant offers a mixture of the best dishes in the country: Cantonese, Sichuan, Shandong, Jiangsu, and Zhejiang cuisines.

There are expensive dishes like abalone, shark fin and bird's nest soup. But there are also cheap dishes costing less than 20 yuan. The private rooms are some of the most interesting in town, synthesizing ancient and modern Chinese design. There are fixed prices for the private rooms. For example, diners in the smallest six-person rooms must spend at least 1,088 yuan.

The highlight of the evening is the performance that starts at 7pm. The performance, which lasts for two hours, features Peking Opera, a Sichuan 'face-changing' show and Chinese martial arts.

Where: Guoxing Jiayuan, A 20 Shouti Nanlu, Haidian District

Tel: 5154 4800

Average cost: 100 yuan per person



Alliya's Recipes

Sweet and sour pork with pineapple

Ingredients:

1kg lean pork
Ketchup
1 egg
Half a pineapple
Cornflower

Directions:

1. Chop the pineapple into small squares.

2. Wash the meat and cut it into small squares. Break the egg and mix it in with three handfuls of cornflower and a pinch of salt. Add the pork to the mix, ensuring the meat chunks are covered.

3. Heat 10 tablespoons of oil in a wok and add the mixed pork piece by piece. Deep-fry the meat until golden and crispy and remove.

Leave one tablespoon of oil in the wok and drain the rest.

4. Pour half a bottle of ketchup into the wok and add the pineapple. Stir-fry for two minutes.

5. Add the deep-fried pork to the sauce and stir-fry for a further two minutes

6. Serve with rice and vegetables. (Serves four)



Jams

Irish Music

Singer and guitarist Dermot Devine from Northern Ireland takes the stage for a night of traditional Irish music. There will also be a surprise guest.

Where: The Brewery Tap, Blue Castle International Apartments, 3 Xidawanglu, Chaoyang
When: 8:30 pm, April 22
Admission: Free
Tel: 8599 9092

Dopamine

DJ Dopamine performs a typical set of rhythmic break beats and phat bass lines off with techfunk elements.

Where: Babyface, 6 Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang
When: Midnight April 22
Admission: 30-50 yuan
Tel: 6551 9081

Summer Loving

At what promises to be the first big party of the summer, DJ G Dee and guests will spin house and funk on the terrace while DJ Mon Eli and Rich get the dance floor jumping in the bar.

Where: Bar Blu, 4 floor of Tongli Sanlitun, Chaoyang
When: 9:30 pm, April 22
Tel: 6417 4124



Exhibitions

Ralph Gibson Solo Exhibition



Each of Ralph Gibson's photos is unforgettable, unique, and rich with technical detail (see review, see page 10).

Where: Soka Art Center, 101 room Tian Hai Business Plaza, Dongsidajie, Dongcheng
When: until April 30
Tel: 8401 2377

Zhu Wei's First Solo Exhibition in China

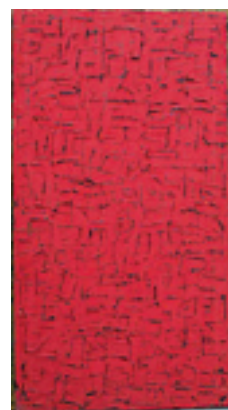
After a successful overseas career spanning 14 years, Zhu Wei will put on his first mainland exhibition in Beijing. A brilliant collection of his latest wood block prints will be on show.

Where: Red Gate Gallery, watchtower of Dongbianmen Chongwenmen, Dongcheng
When: 10 am-5 pm, until May 7
Tel: 6525 1005

Partita of Abstract

Bai Xincheng's work is based on the theme of 'Lines', connecting Chinese tradition and western culture. The lines he creates are the language of the abstract and the image of expression. At the same time, the variation of different lines composes an image of psychology.

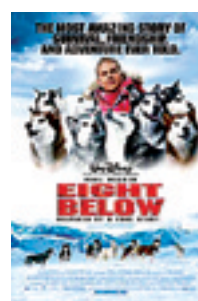
Where: Qin Gallery, 1-1E Enjoy Paradise, Huaweili, Chaoyang
When: 9:30 am-7 pm, April 22-30
Tel: 8779 0461



Movies

Eight Below

Directed by Frank Marshall, starring Paul Walker, Jason Biggs, and Bruce Greenwood. The film tells the story of three members of a scientific expedition in Antarctica who are forced to leave behind their team of beloved sled dogs due to a sudden accident and perilous weather conditions. During the harsh, Antarctic winter, the dogs must struggle for survival alone in the intense frozen wilderness for over six months.



Where: Cineplexes across Beijing
When: From April 21
Tickets: at 6417 7845

Green Tea

Directed by Zhang Yuan, starring Jiang Wen and Zhao Wei. This is a delightful love story with a very mysterious atmosphere. Wu Fang, a highly desirable single businesswoman has been the object of the attention of eligible bachelors. For each first date, she orders a cup of green tea in order to read the tea leaves that she believes will predict her fate. Chinese with English subtitles.



Where: Cherry Lane Movies, An Jia Lou inside the Kent Center, Chaoyang
When: 8 pm, April 21-22
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 6466 2288

No One Writes to the Colonel

In a small coastal town, an obstinate colonel keeps waiting for the pension that has been promised to him but has never been delivered. Every Friday, he goes down to the docks, dressed in his best suit in anticipation of the arrival of the letter announcing his pension. Everyone knows that he is waiting in vain, but he refuses to face reality, even though, deep in his heart, he knows that the letter will never arrive. Spanish with English subtitles.



Where: Mexican Embassy, 5 Sanlitun Dongjie, Chaoyang
When: 7:30 pm, April 26
Admission: Free
Tel: 6532 2244

L.627

Directed by Bertrand Tavernier, starring Cecile Garcia-Vogel, Charlotte Kady and Claude Brosset. A police inspector, Lucian Marquet, sticks to an opinion contrary to that of a superior officer. He is transferred to a bad precinct. The movie provides an impassioned look inside the day-to-day activities of a small, ill-equipped branch of the Paris Drug Squad. French with Chinese subtitles.



Where: French Culture Center, 18 Gongti Xilu, Guangcai International Mansion, Chaoyang
When: 6 pm, April 21-27
Admission: 20 yuan, 10 yuan for student
Tel: 6553 2627

Johnny Toothpick

Good-hearted Dante is happy driving the school bus for a group of mentally handicapped children but feels that he is somehow missing out on life and love. But after he gets into an accident and meets Maria, things start looking up. Italian with English subtitles.



Where: Italian Embassy, 2 Dong'erjie, Sanlitun, Chaoyang
When: 7 pm, April 27
Admission: Free
Tel: 6532 2187

Performances



Ukrainian National Opera Ballet

Ukrainian National Opera Ballet, one of the most famous grand theaters in the world, was founded in 1923. They are known for their consistently technical and artistic performances and challenging and innovative choreography. Dancers do a minimum of 12-year-long Ukrainian dance training prior to joining the company. *Sleeping Beauty* is one of the pieces to be performed.

Where: Poly Theatre, 14 Dongzhimen Nandajie, Dongcheng
When: 7:30 pm, April 26-27
Admission: 120-880 yuan
Tel: 6500 1188, tickets at 6417 7845

The Ice-fire Paradise of the Magician

The St. Petersburg Circus and Magic Theater was founded in the 1920s. At the end of last century, the theater moved outside onto the ice. A large number of ice performances will heat up the audience.

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimenwai Dajie, Xicheng
When: 7:30 pm, April 28
Admission: 180-680 yuan
Tel: 6835 4455, tickets at 6417 7845

Personal Classifieds

American businessman seeks Chinese business partner and/or investor, must have 200,000 yuan or more. Email sales@bjrealeasy.com to arrange a meeting.

Mr. Shao, Business Interpreter, English major, returned from overseas, want to teach grown-ups with English or Chinese; Contact: 5188 6736, 13552344276 (Message only), billshao@126.com

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We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language exchange and accommodation information for individuals. Feel free to email us at bjtodayinfo@ynet.com or call 6590 2519

Activities

Immortal Valley loop

This loop walk offers excellent valley and ridge views. It follows a well-maintained scenic trail up to the peak (800 meters). We will have our lunch break there and enjoy the stunning panoramic view of the surrounding mountains, valleys, villages, as well as the beautiful Miyun reservoir.

Where: Huairou District, north of Beijing.
When: April 23, leaving at 8 am from the Lido Hotel outside of Starbucks.
Cost: 200

yuan for adults, 150 for children under 12
Tel: 13910025516 (Reservations essential)

The vanishing and rebuilding of cultural traditions

Cultural history professor Liu Mengxi will discuss the vanishing and rebuilding of Chinese cultural traditions from the period of the late Qing dynasty to the present. In Chinese.

Where: Building B, National Museum of Modern Chinese Literature, Xicheng
When: 9:30 pm, April 23
Admission: Free

Tel: 8461 9060 ext. 2131

Grilling Lessons

Take a lesson with a pair of professionals, the head chef and the manager of the Block House. Classes will be given for groups of six to eight people and will offer tips about the best way to prepare and consume steaks.

Where: Block House, Wangzuo Mansion (near Kerry Center), Chaoyang
When: 4-6 pm, April 22
Admission: 120 yuan
Tel: 6561 6166

“英名天下”

——量身定做取洋名！

您有一个超炫塞IN的英文名吗？
您的英文名适合您的个性吗？
您的英文名有异性缘吗？
您知道流行的英文名字的含义吗？
您知道那些时尚名字背后的故事吗？
为您量身定做取洋名，一切改变从“英名天下”开始！

男士：发送 **M** + 姓名的汉语拼音 到 9638036 (移动用户)
女士：发送 **W** + 姓名的汉语拼音 到 9608036 (联通用户)

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“今日英语时尚”

——潮流英语随你“尚”！

别因为英语流利就沾沾自喜哦！
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1899月

Private companies trampling on workers' rights

By Feng Nianhua
Workers' rights are being infringed upon nationwide, according to a report submitted by a deputy of the National People's Congress.
The report focuses on a three-month investigation across China's major cities including Beijing and Shanghai.
It reveals that less than 20 percent of small and medium-sized private companies sign labor contracts with their employees.
This is despite the fact that China's labor law came into force more than 10 years ago. Even if a contract is signed, it is normally only valid for a short time and its contents are not always clear, the report says.
Central and provincial governments imposed minimum wage levels in all the provinces and municipalities, based on the living costs and standards. But the system has not been adhered to across the board.
Over 12 percent of workers' salaries are below the minimum and 7.8 percent of workers do not receive their salaries on time, the report says.
It is also common for people to do overtime, especially in seasonal industries. Workers are



Employers are cutting corners as they take advantage of a huge labor surplus.
Photos by sina.com

often required to work more than 10 hours a day, but seldom receive any compensation, either in holidays or payment, for the extra hours. The new labor law requires employers to pay two to three times more for overtime work.
The social welfare system can't provide for all workers as well as funding pensions, unemployment benefits, health insurance and housing subsidies. Under the labor law, employers are required to buy these insurance products for their workers but most private companies fail to do so.
The report says the biggest problem is the lack of effective measures to force employers to abide by government regulations. Neither local government nor employees want to sue private business owners for their illegal actions.
The reason, says the report, is that there is such a high demand for work in China. The competition for jobs is fierce, particularly with the huge numbers of peasants pouring into the cities in search of work.
"Employees, employers and governments need to work together to solve the problems," the report says. "This process might take decades."

6,500 graduates head west

A nationwide project will send 6,500 university graduates to serve the poor western countryside as volunteers this year.
The volunteers will work in poverty-stricken counties for up to two years to help improve education, health care, agriculture, culture and other sectors.
The project is co-sponsored by the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League of China and relevant ministries.
Over the past three years, at least 40,000 university graduates have served the west as volunteers, and 392 poverty-stricken counties have benefited. (Xinhua)

A second chance for post-graduate applicants

By Jiang Xubo
Candidates for post-graduate education who failed in their initial applications at the interview stage can apply for other universities online up until May 15.
Candidates can visit www.chinayz.com.cn, a website sponsored by China Higher-education Student Information and Career Center under directions from the Ministry of Education (ME), and file applications.
"So far, some 80 thousand candidates have filed applications through the system and 45 percent have received invitations," said Zhang Fengyou, an officer from ME.
Around 400 thousand candidates are expected to take part in interviews for post-graduate education this year.

UIBE promotes students

By Ayi
Commercial ads design contests, delicious foods with exotic flavors, political debates, professional career plans, lectures, film showings....these are the exciting programs being prepared and participated in by the students of the School of Foreign Studies of the University of International Business and Economics (UIBE) throughout this week.
This year is the school's fifth annual 'foreign language & culture festival', which aims to demonstrate its diverse education and the diverse qualities of its students. The school has 450 students studying eight foreign languages: French, Japanese, Spanish, Arabian, Russian, Korean, Italian and Vietnamese.
The festival has attracted officials from embassies and multinational companies in Beijing.

Tips:

How to tackle tough interview questions

By Feng Nianhua
Tough interview questions are par for the course for most job seekers. Below is a list of some common questions and examples of how to answer them.
Q1: Please introduce yourself.
Analysis: The interviewer's intention is to see if you can emphasize anything important concerning the position you're applying for. Answer directly and in a concise way. Remember to talk about your ability, experience or training for the job you're applying for.
Q2: Why should we employ you?
Analysis: This is a direct question. A direct question needs a direct answer. You have to show them why you are the best candidate for the job. Show them how you can help improve the company,

reduce costs, boost sales, or improve customer services.
Q3: What are your strong points?
Analysis: This is also a direct question but, unlike the above, there is much implied meaning. Emphasize your abilities, experience and strengths. Remember; answer briefly.
Q4: What are your weaknesses?
Analysis: This is a particularly tricky question – if you step into their trap and tell the interviewer all your shortcomings you will probably get rejected. The perfect answer is to draw out positive points from your weaknesses. Be as honest as possible.
Q5: What is your salary expectation?
Analysis: Most employers will have already decided what they are going to pay

for your position – they just want to confirm whether the money will be enough to attract you. Try to find out the average salary for the position you are applying for before going to the interview. Remember, it is easy to reduce the amount you ask for but difficult to increase it.
Q6: What experience do you have?
Analysis: The interviewer wants to know how much experience you have and how you can put that to use in his company. Talk about your strengths.
Q7: What's your career plan?
Analysis: The employer is trying to work out how motivated you are, to see if you're trust-worthy and will stay a long time in his company. Answer honestly.
Q8: What reference do you have from your former boss?

Analysis: The employer wants to know if you're honest. If what you say in the interview doesn't match with what is written in your reference letter, you will probably be rejected.
Q9: Why do you want this job and why do you want to work for our company?
Analysis: The employer is trying to know if you're a worker who is interested in any job or someone who has a special interest in the position offered. Talk about your working plan and motivation, and also the ability, training and education you have.
Q10: Tell me more about yourself?
Analysis: The interviewer is probing to see if he can find out anything else about you. Answer in a friendly, confident manner.

Seeking Jobs

Vicent Zheng, a native Chinese university student, has one year experience as a Chinese tutor to foreigners, and is seeking as a Chinese language teacher. Email: Pupumini920@hotmail.com, or call: 6540 0615

I will be in Beijing during the months of July and August and I am willing to be an interpreter or writer for any position that suits your purpose. Douglas A. Bartake, Beauval, Saskatchewan, Canada, Email: dougman01@sasktel.net

Female,24,a native university graduate with nearly two years of working experience as an office clerk,is seeking a part-time job as an English guide and accompany.
Email:donotsaygoodbye1@hotmail.com
Tel:01063834603
connecting with Cindy

Female, Beijinger, MBA degree, 5 years work experience. If you want a good hand for business or English interpreter, contact Linda by email: tefclub@yahoo.com.cn, or call: 8695 2269, 1368337 9199

Brighten, male, 44, certified public accountant, experienced at accounting, taxation and financial management, good at English, is looking for a part-time job related to accountancy and audit. Contact: brightenmy@yahoo.com.cn, 13701291705

I am a PhD student in GUCAS (Institute Of MicroElectronics) looking for a part time job.
I have 5 years of teaching experience in Pakistan. Sheraz Anjum at 82847120, 13581806434

Need a Magical Birthday Clown? Magic shows, magic class, face painting, treasure hunts and much, much more!
Special deals for charities, hospitals and schools. Email Mr. Magic at: parsons59 @ yahoo.com

A native Chinese university student, with one year experience as a Chinese tutor to foreigners, is seeking a job as a language teacher. Email: layla8311@yahoo.com.cn

Vacancies

Century 21 Dongchen Co., franchise holder in Beijing for Century 21, seeks expatriates/locals with good command of English and Mandarin. Previous property leasing preferred but not essential. For P/manager requires - at least 2 years experience. Dynamic and hard working with team spirit. Available full-time or part-time. Contact: 6585 1552, Fax: 6585 1569, E-mail: dongchen@c21bj.com.cn

Novotel Zhongguancun Beijing (under pre-opening) is looking for an HR Director/ Manager, IT Director/ Manager, interested candidates, please send CV and motivation to : gm@novotelbeijingzgc.com

The Southern Industrial Zone, Bincheng District, Binzhou, Shandong Province, is looking for two reps and five consultants in Beijing. Contact: Mr. Chen at 13561569235

(Send positions offered and wanted info to: ayi@ynet.com. Beijing Today does not take any responsibility for the accuracy or authenticity of the information published.)

Cambridge: 800-year-old modernizing classical college

The traditional annual boating contest between Cambridge and Oxford



Alison Richard,
vice chancellor
of Cambridge
University

By Wang Xiaoyuan

The University of Cambridge will celebrate its 800th anniversary in 2009. To make the university more united and consolidated, Alison Richard, the vice chancellor of Cambridge, has started her China tour.

There is no need to mention the long history and status of Cambridge's academic education and research. The university is a pioneer of fund raising and cooperation with entrepreneurs and business elites.

Professor Richard is the 344th vice-chancellor of the university, and also the first full-time woman chancellor in Cambridge's history. She got her first degree from Cambridge and took the position in 2003.

She has launched an ambitious one billion pounds fund-raising campaign to underpin and augment core expenditure, introduce new measures for the stewardship of the university's investments, and developed a bursary fund to ensure that undergraduate students and applicants are not disadvantaged by the national introduction of higher university tuition fees.

She has also sponsored internal policy initiatives, including a review of Cambridge's international relationships and its international student policy.

Q: What is the goal of your China tour this time?

A: We have three goals. The first is to meet the alumni in Shanghai and Beijing. It is good to bring the Cambridge family together again and build a network. As you have seen, many students flew from other cities to meet their old schoolmates, if not for the alumni event itself. They may never meet each other again.

The second is to build the partnership with Beijing Education Examinations Authority. We are promoting ESOL, the English testing system in Beijing, and cooperating with the government to do English training for Beijing citizens for the coming Olympics. We may not be able to win as many medals as the Chinese athletes but we can make sure all the taxi drivers speak as much English as possible.

My last task is to meet our Chinese academic partners. I have visited and given speeches in Beijing University and Tsinghua University. They both represent high-level education in China. I am very glad to become a bridge connecting Cambridge and Chinese universities.

Q: What are the advantages for an international student to further his/her education at Cambridge compared to places such as Oxford, Yale or Harvard?

A: First, Cambridge is a famous scientific and technological institution. The achievement in high-tech areas has placed us at the core of European scientific/technological research. We also have a long



Classic architecture



Time to relax



The canal throughout the campus



A church on the campus

Photos by sina.com & CFP

history. Although we are famous for our legendary classical architecture on campus, Cambridge is changing all the time. It is a combination of tradition and modernization.

Besides, I still hope that Chinese students can consider degree courses in humanities and social science in Cambridge too, as we have so many outstanding graduates in literature and other humanistic areas.

Q: What kind of financial support can Chinese students get at Cambridge?

A: We receive US\$210 million donations from the Gates Scholarship each year, the largest scholarship program in Cambridge. There are also OSI/FCO Chevening and other entrepreneurs, such as Li Ka Shing, the Hong Kong tycoon, offering us much support. When students apply, they do not need to choose the program, just tick the box for financial support.

Q: Have you ever taught Chinese students yourself? What is your impression of them?

A: Yes, but at Yale, not at Cambridge. However, teaching Chinese students in the US is the same as in Cambridge.

We have over 700 Chinese students. They are all bright and hard working. I don't have to say how much they have achieved in science and technology, just see how many scientists we have in this alumnus.

At the same time, they are also fun students. I remember when the writer Jin Yong came

to do his PhD course all the Chinese students went for him in costumes of his fictional characters. They even kneeled down in front of him as if greeting an emperor.

Q: All students have to face fierce competition when job hunting. Do you have any advice for Chinese students about their future careers?

A: I have to say that as a Cambridge graduate, a job is never a problem. All of our graduates have a promising future, at least in their careers.

Q: We know that the undergraduate system in China is completely different from Cambridge. How can a Chinese student realize his potential if he only takes a one-year master degree?

A: Yes, one year is quite short for a student to adopt such a transformation. Perhaps having good English skills is the key element. Oral English, listening, reading and writing are all very important. We have our own language courses.

However, it can become a heavy burden when a student needs to start his main course and language training at the same time. If you want to get the most out of Cambridge you must speak good English.

Q: What are the fees for international students at Cambridge?

A: The tuition fee varies in different colleges and departments. Normally an international student needs at least 15,000 pounds.

Ask Ayi:

Q: Over the past several months there have been several reports about the new TOEFL and IELTS tests. Can you give me a clear picture of the changes and new testing system?

— Alice Jie

A: TOEFL is changing its test system from paper to computer. IELTS remains the same but provides a more convenient service.

TOEFL and IELTS are integrating their tests. Now, both tests consist of the same four elements: listening, speaking, reading and writing. 694 universities and more vocational schools in the US now accept IELTS scores.

The maximum score for IELTS is 9. If you want to read postgraduate courses in science and technology you must have a minimum score of 6.5, (seven for humanities and social sciences).

The maximum score for the old TOEFL test is 677. If you want to receive higher education in a formal school in the US you need at least 610.

The maximum score for the new TOEFL test is 120. Many universities in the US have listed the minimum scores they will accept: University of Boston – 64, University of Ohio – 71, University of California (Berkley) – 68, State University of Michigan – 80, University of Arkansas – 70, University of Minnesota – 79, University of Missouri – 80. These are all the qualified universities in the US. As for the lesser known universities, colleges and schools, their requirements are lower.

(Edited by Ayi)

Helping foreigners to cross cultural barriers

By Chen Shasha

To help expats in Beijing cross the language and cultural barriers, a Chinese language and culture fair was held recently in Beijing's Ritz Hotel.

Many cultural language schools and culture providers came to offer learning information for foreigners. Performances demonstrating Chinese were held to give a live example of Chinese culture. An open-plan system allowed visitors to better improve their Chinese.

The fair was created because most foreigners find it difficult to deal with even basic aspects of daily life and feel like outsiders, according to Claire Zhang, sponsor of the activity.

Dave Simons, a businessman from Boston, said although he has been in China with his wife for nearly two years it's still hard for him to go outside with his basic Chinese.

China attracts students in Nepal

Over 25 of China's universities held a two-day education exhibition in Kathmandu, Nepal over the weekend to lure potential students from the tiny mountainous country.

The schools include the Communication University of China, Fudan University, Tongji University in Shanghai, and the Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou.

"The Chinese education system is at an international level and it is suitable for Nepalese students," said Radha Krishina Mainali, the Minister for Education and Sports in Nepal.

About 3,000 Nepalese students are studying in China, involving subjects like medicine, engineering, tourism and business administration. The Chinese government has provided scholarship to nearly 800 Nepalese students over the last four decades.

(Xinhua)

Study in Canada (5):

I didn't get an 'A' in Chinese literature

By Feng Nianhua

When I got a B+ in a course named Topics in Early Vernacular Modern Chinese Literature in my first postgraduate academic year I felt there was a fish bone stuck in my throat. It was my lowest grade in all my graduate studies, even at Nankai University in China. What happened to me? There is a valuable lesson to be learned.

Generally, we select a course because our research needs it, or the course is truly fascinating; sometimes, we probably also need to study something we don't like.

To begin a PhD program was my initial goal before I got there;

however, I had to accept studying a master program at first, since it is hard to gain recognition from Canadian universities for what I achieved in domestic universities.

Professor Schmidt had told me it would be possible for me to transfer to a PhD program from the master degree program. When that plan failed I decided finishing the master program as soon as possible was the best way to begin a PhD level course.

You need 30 credits to complete a master program, which includes 12 from the dissertation. I had to select total of six courses to get 18 credits.

Things got harder in the second half of the winter session as I selected only two courses in the first half.

Also, I had tried to transfer credits to UBC from Nankai University, but it proved to be too difficult and complicated, even after Professor Schmidt wrote a letter of explanation for me. He suggested I should select four courses in that winter session to guarantee I got enough credits even if the credit transfer plan failed. By the time I realized I could not transfer credits, the time to withdraw from the Chinese course I mentioned above without getting a 'W' mark had passed. I had to

stick it out!

I have to admit that I did study hard, and I still think I made more of an effort than my classmates. But the study field - ancient Chinese colloquial fiction, was very different from my major, Classical Chinese Literature (or the dissertation topic 'Copyright Protection in Song China'). I felt bored by it. The worst thing was I was not familiar with western manual styles at that time and to be honest my final paper was not excellent.

I didn't follow the advice of the professor who taught the class when she said she could change the final score if I revised the paper because I was too busy

with the translation of classical Chinese documents for my dissertation. But I really appreciate what she taught in class, even though it was she who gave me the score. She is a teacher with strict academic standards. I believe I have benefited from the experience.

To get an 'A' is not too hard for graduate students, especially for studious Chinese students. But remember, studying hard or treating it seriously is not enough. Doing research from a western perspective and using more western materials and western scholars' achievements is necessary for scholars, especially in the humanities.



Resort pool



Chinese temple

Thai a little tenderness

Klong prao beach

By Ralph Jennings

Most of our friends in Beijing have traveled to Thailand, so my wife and I called them to collect as much been-there, done-that advice as possible before making our first trip.

We got so much advice it felt like we had gone to Thailand and back without leaving home. After we landed in Bangkok we realized our advisers had told us only where to go, not how to get anywhere.

We picked Koh Chang, a mountainous 3,522 square-kilometer island in the Gulf of Thailand near Cambodia because a friend had recommended its coconut beaches and mellow tourist crowds. He didn't say how to find the island.

"If people want to come here, they must be people who really want to visit here. There will not be pass-by visitors who just want to stop by, because they have to drive to the end of the road and cross the sea," says Ta Surisa, who runs a restaurant on Koh Chang. "Therefore, people who like to visit here will be adventure visitors. Those luxury visitors will hardly come, because Koh Chang is simple, without many luxurious things, but for people who like to live with nature."

Here's how to reach the end of the road, cross the sea and get happy. At the Bangkok airport, you can change currency into baht (1 baht is about 2 mao) late into the night and get a metered taxi that should charge 110 for road tolls and the cabby's access to the airport queue plus 200-300 baht in fare to the center of town about 30 minutes away. Sukhumvit Road is the Chang'an Avenue of Bangkok. Food vendors, whores and the occasional elephant populate the sidewalks. Hotels along the road ask a few hundred to 5,900 baht per night. When you are ready for Koh Chang, go to the Ekamai metro station, also along Sukhumvit Road, and a block away find the long-distance bus depot.

Trat

A ticket to the city of Trat, near Koh Chang, costs 223 baht. Buses leave every 20-30 minutes most of the day. They're air-conditioned and show Thai movies. The bus company gives passengers water, iced juice and cookies on the six-hour ride.

From the bus, after it clears eternally stalled traffic on Sukhumvit Road, you can see orchards, houses surrounded by tropical gardens and temples sporting golden Buddha statues along the fully paved route. Option B: Fly to Trat.



Wonderful views



Sculptures in a Chinese temple



Bus depot



Roadside bungalows



Flapper flipper



Monkey fun

Ferries and speedboats from mainland Trat to nearby Koh Chang may stop after dark. You can stay in a guesthouse around the corner from the Trat bus depot or take a 150 baht taxi to the Laem Ngob Bungalows, 450 baht per night, in a jungle behind the Koh Chang piers. A near-pier roadside meal costs 275 baht. Service English in Trat isn't great, but service attitude makes up for it. At the Laem Ngob pier, where a guy took us from our bungalow for 40 baht, three travel agents sell Koh Chang resort stays and speedboat tickets to the island. About 90 resorts and bungalow complexes ring Koh Chang. But mountain roads separate most of them, so you'd get tired walking around asking about room rates.

Agents

An agent showed us resort photos, asked what we wanted (beach access, no party brats) and called around to see which hotels had rooms – not easy for the Spring Festival period. She charged no commission.

One-story villas are the most common rooms. The most sought-after and expensive villas face beaches. Some hotels include two-story or larger buildings, and a few are hidden in jungles above the beach. Most have an outdoor restaurant-bar or two. Some have pools, mini-marts and Internet cafés that charge 2 baht per online minute. Ours had a lagoon that brought live fish up to the wooden walkways at high tide.

We paid 2,000 baht per night, about mid-range for Koh Chang, and got round-trip speedboat tickets for 200 baht each. After 15 minutes of speeding, we were in a Koh Chang pick-up truck converted into a public taxi and headed down the tourism-intensive west side of the island.

Public taxis, which can seat 10 people, range from 40-100 baht a head, depending on distance and how well you bargain with the driver. Until 7 pm nightly but later in some spots, drivers cruise the two-lane west coastal road through steep jungles and towns with outdoor restaurants, convenience stores and souvenir shacks. Hang onto your pack so it doesn't fall through the

tailgate on a tight curve.

Thai and European tourists populate eight major beaches along the island's western shore. They sunbathe or swim on the meter-deep shelf of clear water between the sand and the drop into the deep. Some drink Thai beer, 35-50 baht per bottle, at tables in the palm groves next to the sand. Souvenir vendors who ply the beaches do not yell or pester tourists. Beach access is free.

Most stuff to do is on the island's west side, where roads are most developed.

Bang Bao pier in the southwest doubles as a commercial district. Wooden-floored restaurants, clothiers, a coffeehouse and a used bookseller sit on stilts over a shallow bay once the province of fishing boats. Public taxis stop at Bang Bao. Diving tours and boat trips to other islands leave from there.

Klong Plu waterfall, which is a 20-minute walk from the main west island road, charges 200 baht per ticket for a forested hike to a cascade that touches down in a pool deep enough for a dip.

The deserted Buddhist Wat Klong Prao and a Chinese temple decorated in a way that proves Thailand's devotion to elephants take visitors for free. Both are just off the major west island road.

White sand

Koh Chang's most developed area is the roadside resort, restaurant and shopping stretch along White Sand Beach. You can buy there whatever you forgot to pack in Beijing and get a meal, 50-350 baht per dish, of sea bass or squid probably treated in chili peppers or lemon grass.

Mosquitoes bite on Koh Chang. Stray dogs beg but don't bite. It's almost always above 30C and may rain part of the day, especially in the summer. Obvious sun block and water supply advice applies. Getting off the island is a reverse of getting to it. Buses from Trat to the Ekamai station in Bangkok stop running for a few hours in the late afternoons, however. Taxis bound for the Bangkok airport do not pay 110 baht access fees and tolls. The airport charges 500 baht to exit tax.